

## ASET e-Bulletin

October 2016

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### ASET

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Winding back the clock this weekend, will give us all an extra hour to use. I hope you can take a few of those precious extra minutes to keep up to date with your latest ASET news .....



Look out below for the lowdown on Degree Apprenticeships, 2017 NUE Awards, ASET Regional Hub meetings and plenty more besides.

**Debbie Siva-Jothy**

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### Understanding Degree Apprenticeships

*Sarah Flynn, ASET Chair*

*Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) School of Engineering & Technology/  
Learning & Teaching Specialist, Learning & Teaching Innovation Centre  
University of Hertfordshire*

Following on from conversations at our annual conference back in September, I thought it would be useful to share with you some information about degree apprenticeships, how they might relate to placements and to signpost some useful information.

Degree apprenticeships combine university study and workplace learning to enable apprentices to gain either an undergraduate or postgraduate degree; the students – or apprentices – are employed on a full time basis as well as studying, which often means atypical attendance models like day release, block teaching or online and distance learning. In order for a university or college to deliver a degree apprenticeship they have to have a Skills Funding Agency (SFA) funding agreement, which contains an apprenticeships allocation, not unlike – but separate from - recruitment of traditional undergraduate students. Degree apprentices do not pay for training costs or student fees and are not eligible for student loans.

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Degree apprenticeships are employer led; they are co-designed by groups of employers, professional bodies and universities, collectively known as 'Trailblazers' and each of these Trailblazers will propose an apprenticeship standard, assessment plan and arrangements for an end point assessment. The idea is that this results in a fully- integrated degree course specifically for apprentices, which delivers and tests both academic learning and on-the-job training.

A degree apprenticeship cannot run until the standard is approved. The purpose of the apprenticeship standard is to describe typical roles of a completer of the apprenticeship, and to define the knowledge and skills developed. Full details of all approved degree apprenticeship standards can be accessed [online here](#). The assessment plan covers arrangements for both academic learning and workplace competency, and the SFA have expectations around visits to the workplace to assess competency which are usually every 12-13 weeks. Arrangements for end point assessments vary from standard to standard, sometimes the responsibility sits with the University but often a professional body or an awarding body like Pearson or City & Guilds run the end point assessment. If the end point assessment is not part of the degree itself, then a student could gain a degree but not be awarded the degree apprenticeship if they fail the end point assessment. As well as this being hugely impactful for the student, the University concerned would receive reduced funding too.

Clearly those of us engaged in supporting work based and placement learning have much experience to offer in terms of workplace competency, employer engagement and skills assessment so perhaps it is time for each of you to discover what is going on in your own institutions in relation to degree apprenticeships?

### Interested in getting involved with ASET?

Are you in the midst of appraisal season at work, and you are looking for a professional development opportunity? Or perhaps you attended our annual conference in York and have since thought about getting more involved in ASET? We currently have spaces on all our Working Groups and are seeking volunteers.

**WORKING GROUPS** – Would you be interested in joining a working group? At the moment we have three working groups who report to the Executive Committee and which are led by a Trustee. If getting out of the office is a challenge, it is possible to contribute to these groups online, by email and telephone, so why not have a think about giving it a go?

These groups are:

#### **Staff Development and Events**

This working group is responsible for planning our programme of workshops and our Regional Hub meetings. Are you interested in events planning, have ideas about how we can improve workshops, looking for a professional development opportunity to co-ordinate your region? This group mainly works online although there are a small number of face to face meetings each year, usually at our offices in Sheffield.

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### **Membership and Communications**

This working group is responsible for developing our offer to members, supporting the office with the membership renewals, and managing our branding and communications – including our social media, web and printed communications. Generating ideas for our e-bulletin, news items and new ways of connecting our members to each other is a key part of this group which meets entirely online.

### **Research and Publications**

This working group is responsible for managing our bursary projects, publications and commissioned research projects. They are also responsible for the peer review of conference research papers. Are you interested in innovation in practice, developing an evidence base for placements or already an active researcher? This group mainly works online although meets face to face twice a year.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – You may also like to think about joining our Executive Committee and become a Trustee of ASET? Initially you would join as a co-opted member, in effect a visitor, and would be invited along to our five/six meetings a year, which are located at our office base in Sheffield, London or online. You can apply to become a Co-opt at any point in the year, and if you wish to continue, you would then be expected to stand for election at the next AGM. We will always consider an expression of interest from anyone, no matter whether your role is central / School based, cross-disciplinary or specialist. Why not find out more about [ASET Trustees Role and Responsibilities?](#)

**If you want to get involved** - Send a short expression of interest (1 page maximum) to the Executive Committee for consideration at our next Trustees meeting outlining:

- The **Working Group** you are interested in – or whether you wish to be considered as a Co-Opted trustee
- What engagement you have had with ASET to date
- What you would like to get from being involved with ASET
- What you could bring to ASET in terms of skills and expertise
- Do you have the support from your institution and line manager to get involved?

**Expressions of interest should be sent to the ASET Office on [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org) by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November.**

If you have any queries or questions before submitting your interest, please contact our Chair Sarah ([s.j.flynn@herts.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.flynn@herts.ac.uk)) or Vice-Chair James ([J.I.H.Corbin-2@kent.ac.uk](mailto:J.I.H.Corbin-2@kent.ac.uk))

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### [Book Online Now](#)

There are currently still places available on all our ASET Staff Development Workshops.

Date	Location	W'shop No.	Title
03-Nov	London - Senate House	14	Supporting International Students with Placements
17-Nov	Aston University	15	Marketing for Placements
08-Dec	London - Senate House	16	From Placements to Employability

### Regional Hub Meetings

The following dates have been set for the next Regional Hub Meetings and you can now register for a place by emailing the ASET Office:

<b>NORTH</b>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December, University of Sheffield, 2-4pm
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December, Goldsmiths, University of London, 10-12noon
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December, University of Bath, 2-4pm

The discussion topic for these meetings will be **Student Engagement**.

ASET Regional Hub Meetings are free events for delegates from ASET member institutions. Places are limited and allocated on a first come first served basis. Up to two delegates per institution may register.

If you would like to host a Regional Hub event for your region, and can offer space for 25-50 delegates for a morning or afternoon (2hour) meeting, please get in touch [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org)

### Representing your interests in national consultations

ASET has been busy contributing to the consultations, and follow up discussions on three major activities over the last few months. Two major Government consultations on assessing the quality of Higher Education, and the year 2 technical proposals for the Teaching Excellence Framework, plus the Higher Education Statistics Agency's consultation on the principle and future requirements for the UK's public interest data about graduates. We see this involvement as a crucial part of our mission to provide strategic leadership and a national voice as a central agency through informed and authoritative representation. We will continue to work with Government both through the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and with agencies like HESA to ensure that work based and placement learning are fully included in considerations for policy changes.

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### 2017 NUE Awards

Are you thinking about putting together a nomination for this year's awards? If you weren't able to make it to conference this year, and missed the RMP Masterclass, our colleagues at RateMyPlacement are still keen to hear from you and to persuade you to nominate. There is no time to lose .....



*“Do you ever find yourself day dreaming about how one day you might just win the lottery, book yourself a yearlong cruise and feel on top of the world? Yeah... so do we, mostly on Monday's, especially on the tube home from work.*

*Although we can't supply you with two out of those three we can most definitely give you that on top of the world feeling, (which may just mean you book that cruise), because being recognised for the tireless efforts and support you've given your students, team and university is exactly what we are here for.*

*With less than a month to go until the 2017 NUE Award nomination deadline , there is still enough time to put yourself forward for one of our very very special awards. (Lottery ticket equivalent if you ask us... so maybe we can supply you all with three out of three!).*

We have [five University nomination categories](#) that you can put yourself forward for:



#### 1. Best University Placement Service

- Alongside M&S we set out to reward the tireless and invaluable contributions made by committed placement services in motivating students to apply and maximise their work experience. The shortlisted teams also get to head over to M&S HQ for a day of networking and workshops (oooooh!).

#### 2. Best University Careers / Employability Service

- With the same intentions of the Best Placement Service this award shifts its focus onto University Careers/Employability services aiding students to apply and maximise their work experience opportunities – with both these awards it all comes down to how you define yourselves as a team and service.

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### 3. Most Improved Commitment to Employability

- An award designed to celebrate the improved efforts and services provided by university departments, placement or careers services; teams who have implemented initiatives which have transformed their services for all stakeholders. If you've seen a change over the past few years, we want to know!

### 4. Best Collaboration between a University and Employer

- Are you the Michelle and Barack Obama of University – Employer relationships?! If yes, then make sure you nominate yourselves for one of our **newest** awards, set to spotlight the empowering relationships developed between universities and employers to help enhance the employability of our students.

### 5. Outstanding Contribution to Work Experience

- An award sponsored by ASET themselves, created to spotlight an individual who has truly dedicated themselves to the work at their university. The award illustrates the value we see in all of you who dedicate your time to improving the industry and services we provide to students. Basically the cream of the crop...

*As you're receiving this email we already know you're passionate about helping students improve their employability so what are you waiting for? Head over the NUE Awards website today!"*

<http://nueawards.co.uk/categories.php>

## 2016 ASET Student Competition

This year's student competition was launched at conference, and the full details are now available on the ASET website, where you can [download the flyer](#). We hope you will encourage all your returning placement students to enter for a chance to win a 1<sup>st</sup> (£400) or Highly Commended (£100) prize in either category

- Placement/Work experience undertaken in the UK or Ireland
- Placement/Work experience undertaken overseas

Closing date for entries:

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 12noon**



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### The ASET Water Bottle Challenge.....

October update



Early Morning in Sydney



lunchtime in Swansea



end of the day in Blackpool

Where will your #ASET16 water bottle go next?

Tweet your pics using the #ASET16 Conference hashtag. Did someone say prizes??

### And Finally

Your next ASET members' e-Bulletin will be issued in November. Please forward your news/copy to [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org) by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Debbie Siva-Jothy [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org) [www.asetonline.org](http://www.asetonline.org)