

ASET e-Bulletin

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ASET

The Work Based and Placement Learning Association

We are fully operational albeit remotely, please email with enquiries.

aset@asetonline.org

www.asetonline.org

@ASETOnline #ASETStaysOnline

March 2021



Its been another busy month at ASET HQ, and we're just about squeezing into the very last days to with your latest e-Bulletin.

This month we have exciting news of **#ASETLeds**, our biennial Leadership Exchange 19th May, Online. See below for details.

The next ASET e-Bulletin will be issued w/c 19th April. (Copy 16th April).

Debbie Siva-Jothy

aset@asetonline.org www.asetonline.org

ASET Leadership Exchange 2021

09:00-13:30 19th May Online £175

#ASETLeds

Two years after its launch, May sees the return of the successful [ASET Leadership Exchange](#). This key biennial event for academic leaders, professional service managers and senior decision-makers complements ASET's broader staff development offer by providing a forum for strategy-level discussion of current challenges, and policy and practice relating to work based and placement learning.

#ASETLeds will balance input from sector commentators with participant-led discussion, highlighting key shared issues and providing delegates with insights into current and emerging practice and policy. This is an ideal opportunity to network with colleagues across the sector with a strategic interest in work based and placement learning, access an accurate and timely picture of the landscape, and come away with ideas to implement in your own institution.

BOOK NOW
#ASETLeds

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ASET is delighted to introduce the Leadership Exchange's *In conversation with...* panel for 2021:



Rachel Hewitt Director of Policy and Advocacy at the **Higher Education Policy Institute**: Rachel joined HEPI in November 2018, as Director of Policy and Advocacy and has written about a wide variety of HE policy issues, including the future demand for higher education and the graduate gender pay gap. Prior to joining HEPI, Rachel held a number of roles at the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), focused on data policy and governance and gathering requirements for information that could be met from HESA data. Rachel also leads on the review of data on graduate destinations and designed and implemented the new Graduate Outcomes survey.

Helen Higson OBE Professor of Higher Education Learning and Management, **Aston Business School**: Helen Higson is a board member of Advance HE and the Society for Research in Higher Education (SRHE), and has been involved in TEF panels since their inception. In 2011 Helen was awarded an OBE for services to higher education, she is a National Teaching Fellow and a Principal Fellow of Advance HE.



Johnny Rich Chief Executive of **Push** and Chief Executive of the **Engineering Professors' Council**: Johnny Rich has a number of roles including Chief Executive of the Engineering Professors' Council, Chief Executive of the award-winning outreach organisation Push, and a consultant in higher education policy and communications. His recent clients include the European Commission, HEPI, Youth Sight and a host of recruiters, education bodies and media organisations.

Vicki Stott FRSA Deputy CEO at **The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education**: Vicki joined QAA in 2019 and has responsibility for a range of functions including: Membership & Quality Enhancement Services; International & Professional Services; Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland; Quality Assurance England; and Marketing & Events. She is a member of the Executive Team and acts as Deputy CEO.



BOOK NOW
#ASETLeads

Please share details of this event within your own institutional networks, to ensure that relevant colleagues take the opportunity to book.
Places are limited to 100 and the next event is in 2023.

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Student Competition Winners

These have been testing times for all, not least for your students undertaking a Placement/Internship/ Work experience during the last academic year, whether that was in person or virtually . It was therefore with great pleasure, and admiration for their perseverance under pressure, that we welcomed entries to this year's Student Competition. Our team of judges, led by ASET Trustee Vicki O'Brien, *UCLan*, were particularly interested to hear how students overcame adversity faced due to Covid-19, as well as finding out what the entrants learnt about themselves, their strengths, and how able they were to adapt to change. The entries told some excellent stories about what they have learnt about working with colleagues, some face to face, and others remotely, and reflected with insight on how their experiences have shaped their plans for the future.

Our ASET Judges have now deliberated and reached their decisions. The winners have been informed, and we are delighted to announce the results:

Congratulations



This year the winning entry, and prize of **£400**, was awarded to **Katarzyna Komarowska, Anglia Ruskin University** (BSc (Hons) Zoology 2017-2021) who completed her placement with the Institute of Biochemistry and BioPhysics, as an Ecological Surveyor, based in Antarctica.

Vicki and her team of judges also awarded two **Highly Commended** awards of **£100** each to inspiring and insightful entries from:

Patrick Brennan
Lancaster University



David Sharp
University of Kent



The ASET Trustees would like to thank all of you who supported your students' entries this year. Wouldn't it be great to see your students' work celebrated here? The 2021 ASET Student Competition will be launched in September, and entry forms available on the ASET website.

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Spring Regional Hubs

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our next series of Regional Hub meetings. The theme for these hubs is:

'Outside the Box: Work Based Learning'

If the last 18 months have taught us anything it's that we as a sector are agile, innovative and will go above and beyond for our students. This challenging period of uncertainty has led to many innovations in a variety of industries across a range of sectors. As placement practitioners, we have contributed by developing new, alternative and creative solutions to enable our students to gain the vital professional experience they require. Across the placements sector there have been countless examples of innovation - none better exemplified than the examples shared by many of our peers in the Advanced HE report on this very topic;

<https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/employability-breaking-mould>

This Regional Hub will give you the opportunity to share and hear about some of these innovations first hand, what worked, what didn't, lessons learned and the long term impact. There will once again be plenty of opportunity to network and share knowledge with your colleagues across your region in breakout room sessions:

Wednesday 14 th April	10:00-11:30	South West & Wales
Thursday 15 th April	10:00-11:30	South East
Friday 16 th April	10:00-11:30	Midlands
Monday 19 th April	10:00-11:30	Scotland & Ireland
Tuesday 20 th April	10:00-11:30	North

PLEASE NOTE
We are running these events over a split week, keeping to the usual day of the week for each region.

If you are already signed up to the ASET mailing list you will receive an invitation to join your Regional Hub meeting in early April. If you have new colleagues who may not yet be part of the ASET Community, please forward a copy of this e-Bulletin to them and they can sign up here:

**Yes please, count me in
I'd like to join the ASET Community**

Or send a simple email with subject line as **JOIN** to ASET-Count-Me-In@asetonline.org

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Spring 2021- Online Professional Development

Whether you're new to placements or have several years' experience, it is important to think about your CPD. The ASET SD Events programme offers a wide range of topics to cater for all members' needs from **Staff Development Workshops** (9.30-1.30) to shorter **ASET Insights** (90min sessions). We also offer **Bespoke Sessions**, tailored to meet the needs of your team. The Spring 2021 programme is outlined below, and full details for all events are available on the ASET Website.

Staff Development Workshops

Workshops will run from 9.30 – 1.30, with plenty of breaks. **£125** ASET Members (£275 ASET non-members) Hear more from ASET Learning and Development Advisor, Nicola - [VIDEO](#)

[BOOK ONLINE 2021](#)

W'shop No.	W'shop Ref.	Date	Day	Time	Title
6	RAP	13/04/2021	Tues	09:30-13:30	Resilience and Placements (RAP)
7	SISP	29/04/2021	Thurs	09:30-13:30	Supporting International Students with Placements (SISP)
8	RADD	12/05/2021	Wed	09:30-13:30	Risk Assessment and Due Diligence (RADD)
9	FPTE	27/05/2021	Thurs	09:30-13:30	From Placements to Employability (FPTE)
10	FEEP	08/06/2021	Tues	09:30-13:30	Freelancers, Entrepreneurs, Enterprise Placements (FEEP) NEW
11	PGrad	24/06/2021	Thurs	09:30-13:30	Placements for Postgraduates (PGrad)
12	SWP	07/07/2021	Wed	09:30-13:30	Student Wellbeing and Placements (SWP) NEW

Find out more about workshop content on our [website](#)

[BOOK ONLINE 2021](#)

ASET Insights **NEW**

A companion offer to our staff development workshop programme, **ASET Insights** offer 90-minute interactive insights into broader, complementary professional development themes, and are led by our experienced Trustees. Designed to provide short, impactful updates to your professional toolkit, **ASET Insights** themes are selected to enhance your confidence in practical skills that contribute to work success. You can book your place for these short CPD sessions through our usual online booking system.

£50 ASET Members (£100 ASET non-members)

Session	Date	Day	Time	Title
D	22/04/2021	Thurs	10:00-11:30	Effective Teamworking
E	17/06/2021	Thurs	10:00-11:30	Bridging the academic/administrative divide
F	13/07/2021	Tues	10:00-11:30	Beyond Placements – skills development

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Bespoke

We are continuing to offer **Bespoke** sessions **online via Zoom**.

Bespoke training may be borne out of a need to skill or upskill your staff in a particular area relating to Work Based Learning, Placements and Employability. It might be that a successful recruitment drive has resulted in a number of new team members who need to be “on the same page”, or that you are advancing the strategic direction of Employability, Work Based Learning or Placements within your institution and need professional development in a key area for your teams. It may also be an ideal opportunity to bring your team back together after such a lengthy period of remote working. We can tailor courses to suit your needs; this might be through combining two workshops from ASET’s existing extensive workshop portfolio. [See full details](#).



Costs (Online)

ASET member institutions

Fees for online bespoke sessions are £100 per delegate (with a minimum fee of £1000 per session).

Non-member institutions

Fees for online bespoke sessions are £200 per delegate (with a minimum fee of £2000 per session).

If you would like to talk about ideas for a bespoke workshop to suit a specific requirement at your institution, contact Debbie at the ASET Office aset@asetonline.org.

Vacancy

Are you interested in getting involved with ASET? We currently have a vacancy on our **Staff Development Working Group (SDWG)**. The group is responsible for planning and coordinating the regular programme of Professional Development events, available all year round for members. The group supports ASET’s aim of promoting good practice, and offers a friendly environment to share ideas and discuss relevant topics with the aim of ensuring we are offering events which are of interest to, and meet the needs of, all our members. This Group is led by Lou Taylor-Murison, *Keele University*, and meets regularly, online, to review the topics we offer and to discuss current trends and anticipate topics of interest.



Lou Taylor-Murison

To apply

Please send a short biography (150 words max), outlining your experience in WBPL and also illustrating what you hope to bring to ASET. Email your details to aset@asetonline.org with the subject header: **SDWG - vacancy** by 9am Friday 16th April 2021. All applications will be reviewed by the SDWG and applicants will be notified of the outcome by end-April.

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Research Spotlight

This month we are delighted to share details from the ASET Practice and Research Network Meeting, held on the 10th March and featuring **Research Showcase** presentations from 8 contributors.

The afternoon was a fast paced and lively session with presentations ranging from 'Top tips for getting started in WBL Research' to 'Exploring the motivation for professional support staff engagement with fellowship of the HEA'. The full programme is shared below and formal proceedings from the event can be seen here.

PRN Meeting

1. Exploring the motivation for professional support staff engagement with fellowship of the HEA (Higher Education Academy), **Helen Hooper**, *Northumbria University*
2. Revamping a Placement Module, **Sam McKinstrie**, *Robert Gordon University*
3. International work placements and hierarchies of distinction, **Helena Pimlott-Wilson**, *Loughborough University*
4. Measuring the impact of work-based learning on physics students' career readiness, **Andrew Hirst**, *University of York*
5. Lights, Camera, Action! Communicating employability in front of the camera through the Connect to Business Programme, **Simon Fraser**, *Robert Gordon University*
6. The Futures Award at Derby: Developing an Opportunity for Students to gain Employability skills when they've never been employed, **Val Derbyshire**, *University of Derby*
7. Mindset: A Predictor of Career Engagement of Undergraduates, **Julie Udell**, *University of Portsmouth*
8. Top tips for getting started in work-based learning research, **Sarah Flynn**, *University of Hertfordshire*

Find out more about the event by taking a look at [The PRN Meeting Research Showcase – March 2021](#)

Are you currently undertaking research relating to placements?

We know many of our members have been carrying out **research relating to Placements, Work based Learning and Employability**, and there are many who would be interested to hear more about their work.

We are looking for **recent research** undertaken by members and providing an opportunity to shine a spotlight on your work here. We are interested to hear of articles, recent publications, chapters in books, or specific projects.

Contributions are invited under any Placement, Work based learning, or Employability related topic.

Submit your item to be included in next month's **Research Spotlight**, accompanied with a mini profile, abstract and link to the work to aset@asetonline.org by **16th April**, in order to be featured in the next month's issue.

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Save the Date

New to Work Based Learning?

We were delighted to welcome 40 new colleagues to our first Coffee and Chat session earlier this month. Everyone said how much they enjoyed the opportunity to meet others, to begin to expand their networks and to take some time, in an informal setting, to share their challenges and successes.

When we are all working from home, these opportunities can be few and far between, and when you are new to the sector it can feel isolating. So why not come along next time and start to build your support network within the ASET community?

We'll start with a brief introduction from the ASET office, and an opportunity to meet and hear from some of our ASET Trustees, and then we'll open the break out rooms for networking.



Coffee and Chat
Save the date

11th May, 10-11am

New to Work based Learning?
Join us for an informal networking event

Our next Coffee and Chat session will be happening in May. So if you are new to Work Based Learning and ASET, in the past 12 months don't miss out.

Save the Date
11th May, 10-11am

Further information and joining details will be issued in the April e-Bulletin.

Blog: Post-qualification admissions and FE



This month our colleagues at the [Helena Kennedy Foundation](#), HKF, highlight a recent blog on the HEPI website; **Post-qualification admissions and further education: the time is now**, by HKF Founder Dr Ann Limb CBE DL. The blog is available here <https://www.hepi.ac.uk/2021/03/23/post-qualification-admissions-and-further-education-the-time-is-now/>

You can find both the Helena Kennedy Foundation @HKF and Ann @AnnLimb on Twitter, and find out more about the Helena Kennedy Foundation and opportunities to support their work [here](#).

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STUC Event 18th June 2021

Stammerers Through University Consultancy

<https://www.stuc-uk.org>

Lessons Learned – a one day online event about ensuring flexible online studying and working for people who stammer in a post-pandemic world

STUC, *Stammerers Through University Consultancy*, in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire, are putting on a one-day event in June which will be of interest to those with a specific interest in supporting colleagues and students who stammer. 2020 was an unforgettable year and the pandemic changed the world in which we live. With most businesses and educational establishments, who had the capacity, moving to an online presence, the world has had to practise extreme flexibility and perseverance. The technological reliance has been a blessing for some, however for others it has been a burden. Universities are the enablers of many difficulties for those with a speech impediment in a pre-Covid world. However, having to communicate over software such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams can pose more problems than it solves. Nevertheless, everyone adapted regardless. *Lessons Learned* is a day consisting of several talks by those directly impacted by the changes imposed on them by Covid-19. By presenting their experiences and learnings, it is hoped that everyone will learn how to ensure, at their own establishment, that university staff and students can work and study to the best of their ability, no matter what the post-pandemic world has in store.

Registration: <https://stammer.eventbrite.co.uk> , tickets £5.

£9,250 giveaway

Have you seen this amazing new competition from our colleagues at RateMyPlacement?

An opportunity for first year students to win **£9,250!!**
All they need to do is sign up to RateMyPlacement.

Realising that the first year for many students hasn't gone as planned, RateMyPlacement have launched this competition to boost morale, to get students excited and make their second year more memorable. It's an easy entry, all they need to do is sign up to RateMyPlacement.co.uk to be in with a chance of winning.

Pass it on to all your first years. What an amazing opportunity to get a great start to their second year.

[ENTER NOW](#)



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CPD Corner

Nicola Bullivant-Parrish, Learning and Development Advisor

This month’s CPD corner is all about sharing. I have recently attended some online events where interesting points were raised and discussed, which I think could be of value to you in your roles. In case you missed them I have summarised some key points below.

Graduate Recruiters Network (GRN) hosted an employment law update on 10th March. Simon Bloch, Employment Partner at JMW Solicitors LLP was the guest speaker and he talked a little about; the extension to the Government’s furlough scheme, Brexit and employment law, Covid vaccinations in the workplace, and some recent key employment cases. The session was recorded and is available to watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9tE2Pswhdc&t=466s>. Some of the key points of interest are:

- There are civil and criminal penalties which can be imposed for errors found in furlough accounting
- A rise in whistleblowing cases is expected (i.e. where employees have been made to work, when their employer was claiming for them under the furlough scheme)
- “No job, no job....” This is proving to be a huge area of uncertainty for employers as there is currently (on 10th March) no guidance for employers. Can employers require employees to be vaccinated? Simon discussed; the issues surrounding freedom of choice, as well as industries where care is important e.g. nursing, making having a Covid vaccination a condition of the job at the recruitment stage and how this could give rise to issues of discrimination. The key message was; to keep up to date with current Government guidance.
- Finally, in case law, Uber BV and Others v Aslam and others was discussed. The recent UK Supreme Court case ruled that Uber drivers are not self-employed, but rather workers.

The Institute for Student Employers (ISE) held a webinar on 11th March called “Are Assessment Centres Dead?” This lunchtime webinar was recorded and can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KETCWtyQSds&t=320s>. The panel – comprised employers, recruitment partners and a Chartered Occupational Psychologist, and was chaired by Rebecca Fielding, Gradconsult.

Discussions took place around the role of assessment centres in recruitment today, covering insights into face to face assessment centres and online approaches. The discussions were purposefully provocative with cases made for and against assessment centres. Attendees, mainly employers in the graduate recruitment space, were polled in the session and asked about their plans for using assessment centres in the next recruitment year ahead. Their responses are below:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • They will not be using assessment centres | 2% |
| • They will use digital assessment centres | 45% |
| • They will use face to face assessment centres | 5% |
| • They will use a hybrid approach to assessment centres | 25% |
| • We don’t yet know | 23% |

The overall message was that assessment centres are set to stay, but are likely to change and evolve to better meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Nicola

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ASET Resources

Don't forget we are here to support you. Make the most of your membership:

Join us on **LinkedIn** – The Placement and Employability Professionals Group 1200 + members and growing daily. Request to join here <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1929302/>



Follow us **Twitter** @ASETOnline

Use your **ASET Good Practice Guides**

[ASET Good Practice Guide for Work based and Placement Learning in Higher Education](#) and [TOOLKIT](#)

[ASET Good Practice Guide for Health and Safety for Student Placements](#)

[ASET Good Practice Guide for Supporting Students with Disabilities on Placement](#) and [TOOLKIT](#)

[ASET Good Practice Guide to Successful Work Based Learning for Apprenticeships in Higher Education](#)

#ASETConnect – [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#) and [#ASETConnect Proceedings](#)

Know about the **ASET Viewpoints**

- 1 - [Paid and Unpaid Placements](#)
- 2 - [The Benefits of Placement](#)
- 3 - [HEA Recognition](#)
- 4 - [Alumni Mentoring](#)
- 5 - [The Consumer Rights Act and the Competition and Markets Authority](#)
- 6 - [Making Effective Placement Visits](#)
- 7 - [Insurance and visas for International Placements](#)
- 8 - [Student Engagement](#)
- 9 - [Student Resilience](#)
- 10 - [Degree Apprenticeships](#)
- 11 - [Troubleshooting for Placements – Everyday Troubleshooting](#)
- 12 - [Troubleshooting for Placements – Crisis Management](#)
- 13 - [The impact of budget cuts and steps to mitigate](#)
- 14 - [Making the most of technology to adapt to changes in work and placement opportunities](#)

And Finally

The next ASET members' e-Bulletin will be issued in April.

Please forward your news/copy to aset@asetonline.org by Friday 16th April.

Debbie Siva-Jothy

aset@asetonline.org

www.asetonline.org