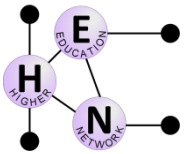


Discovering what makes students employable with insights from a professional advisory board (PAB)

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Wyn Williams





Undergraduate

Teaching @ Edinburgh

Postgraduate



	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
Student #s	~1200	~600
Years of study	3, 4 or 5	1 or 2
Degree	BSc; MA; Integrated masters	MSc (named); PGCert;
# degrees	~12 plus joint degrees	~15 plus 3 online only

Professional Advisory Board

- Idea formed in 2013 during curriculum review to
'Reflect on how we have impact in the workplace as well as maintaining dynamic teaching programmes that are both relevant to, and informed by, issues facing industrial partners and professional organisations'
- Launched in 2015 with 6 external members from range of employer sectors
- Meet twice per year ideally with topic set in advance, so far 4 meetings

Professional Advisory Board

- 4 of 6 initial advisors have been very actively engaged
- Topics covered have included :
 - Emotional intelligence;
 - Employability and the role of the University;
 - Student engagement with wider skills development;
 - Vocational versus non-vocational degrees;

Professional Advisory Board – meeting 1

- Emotional intelligence vs Transferable skills
 - Ability to communicate effectively and work with others; self aware; motivated; social skills
- Embedding EI into teaching
 - Design (redesign curricula) - more opportunity for peer to peer learning and group work
 - Change assessment types - more opportunities for blogs, presentation assessment by peers
 - Formative feedback to encourage constructive criticism and review of best practice

Professional Advisory Board – meeting 2

- Employability and the role of the University
 - Skills and competency based interviews increasing
 - Highlight to students how they have acquired skills
 - Technical skills – in-house, on job training versus assumed degree knowledge
- Student engagement crucial
 - Start thinking early
 - Option for employer bootcamps

Careers service student engagement data

Year	Size	Appointment	Event
1	268	2	29
2	249	13	64
3	255	19	72
4	229	48	79
5	10	2	4
Total UG	1011	84	248
PGT	509	50	118

*Event includes School lunchtime career events

Thanks to Sarah Innes, Careers Service



Professional Advisory Board – meeting 3

- Improving student engagement
 - Real life career paths – lunchtime talks
 - Highlight to students what added skills needed
 - Provide greater opportunities to engage with alumni network – destinations data circulated
- Programme directors engage directly with PAB

Professional Advisory Board – going forward

- Very positive initiative – School and students have both benefited
- Continuous review of board membership with those not engaging to be rotated off
- Accept offers for greater engagement – dialogue has to be positive & reflective and when directed can achieve very positive outcomes



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