

Supporting Placement Learning

Overseas Placements

Aim: To offer a wider range of work experience, enhancing course programmes, developing professional, academic, social and cultural experience.

Activity to date:

- University partnership agreement in place with a college in Canada for an exchange of placement students.
- Similar partnership agreement being finalised with a college in Australia.
- Development of more overseas placements being explored, with careful monitoring of health and safety, management and pastoral support.

Impact to date: Early days on new initiatives but a more structured approach has been developed to validating and supporting the many overseas placements which have been a regular HAUC feature.

Lessons learned: Resourcing issues require careful planning before validating overseas placements. Close monitoring of students with any indicated support is needed to ensure a successful placement.



Placement Fair - October 2007

Harper@Work on Placement

Aim: Enhanced resource for students, before, during and after placement covering professional, academic and other useful material.

Activity to date:

- Moodle site for universal remote access by all registered Harper Adams' undergraduate students.
- Pre-placement material includes: CV and interview preparation
- Placement material includes: Placement Handbook, assignments, professional information for certain courses, e.g. RICS matters for Land Management students.
- Post-placement material includes: information on personal development planning and careers.

Impact to date: Positive feedback from students on campus and at work.

Lessons learned: More information required in some course areas. More information on pastoral matters, such as accommodation and debt management.



REALM student on the rostrum at Ballyclare Livestock Market whilst on placement in Northern Ireland

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Communication

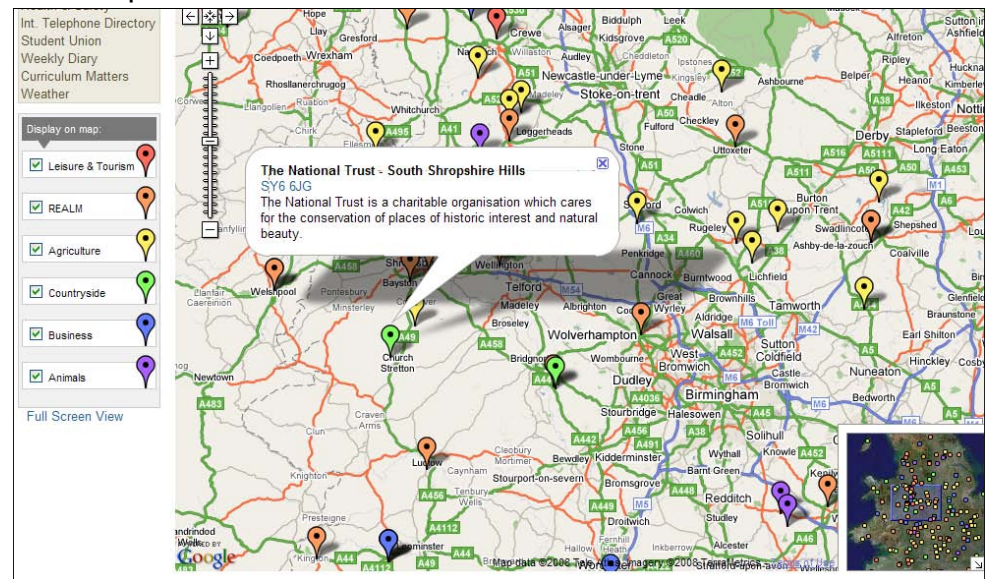
Aim: Enhanced student communication and support - professional, academic and personal.

Activity to date:

- Regular Placement Newsletters for all HAUC students, with course specific notes.
- Use of Moodle for universal remote access to Harper@Work on Placement site.
- An exploration of Skype for remote students.
- Well resourced visiting tutor system.
- Development of networks of ex Harper students for overseas support.

Impact to date: Positive feedback on newsletters and Moodle resources. Skype in planning stage.

Lessons learned: Course specific information has greatest impact and response from students.



Interactive placement map showing locations of current employers

Harper@Work for Employers

Aim: Enhanced resource for employers offering both HAUC and other materials, together with online placement job site to streamline placement administration.

Activity to date:

- Site set up on Harper Adams' website for open access by any employers.
- HAUC material includes: Placement Handbook, Assignments, Health and Safety forms and course related matters.
- Other material includes: links to government information on contracts of employment, national placement health and safety information and professional matters where relevant, e.g. for Land Management students (RICS) or Veterinary Nursing students (RCVS).

Impact to date: Site available to review - should be live by May/June 2008.

Lessons learned: Must be maintained to ensure up to date information. Must be user friendly regarding uploading of jobs.

Health and Safety

Aim: To ensure that the health, safety and welfare of HAUC placement students, both in the UK and abroad, is assessed, monitored and not un-necessarily compromised.

Activity to date:

- HAUC staff membership of 8 member working party to develop new national guidance (along with members of the Universities Safety and Health Association and the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association).
- Development of training and resources for Placement Managers.
- Development of information and training for placement employers.

Impact to date: Further internal systems development on hold pending re-issue of national guidance. Centralised system of briefing new Placement Managers has ensured college-wide consistency.

Lessons learned: Further guidance required for employers, particularly very small businesses. Clearer site visit guidance required for academic (rather than health and safety) staff.