Embedding and enhancing graduate qualities and employment opportunities within social work at Ulster

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Our Vision - To provide students with a high quality learning experience to acquire the knowledge, skills and values to obtain gainful employment in the social work profession.

Rationale

Work based learning is a core element of social work education and learning comprising 50% of the degree programme for undergraduate and postgraduate students in Northern Ireland. Practice based learning is a central tenet in contemporary social work practice; it is recognised and acknowledged internationally as the signature pedagogy of the social work profession (Fortune, McCarthy, & Abramson, 2001; MacDermott and Campbell, 2015; Shulman, 2005; Wayne, Bogo, & Raskin, 2010). In an increasingly competitive labour market embedding employment strategies within the curriculum is essential for students, providing an opportunity to showcase their graduate qualities and for the University securing external partnerships with social work employers.

I devised an Enhancing Employability project in collaboration with colleagues from Employability and Marketing to specifically target social work students and employing agencies.

The Project

‘Getting that job’ Employability Event was launched on 19th February 2016. Promotion of the event was negotiated and an Insight video was secured to share internally with colleagues and students.

References


EMBEDDING

Pillar 1: Creating an interactive opportunity for Ulster University social work students to engage and network with employers to discuss future career and potential graduate employment opportunities.

Pillar 2: Introducing first and second year students to the social work labour market, meeting with employers and engaging with Careers to build their employability profile.

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