

Higher Education
on your doorstep ...



Higher Education: **Employer Handbook**



Warrington Collegiate



Warrington Collegiate offers a range of Higher Education programmes across a range of qualifications to suit the needs of the employer and learner, including Higher Nationals, Foundation Degrees, Professional Qualifications and Teacher Training. Please refer to 'HE Prospectus'.

Value to the employeee

- We actively seek to integrate learning and assessment with the meeting of workplace needs.
- Develops the learners higher level skills, such as critical thinking and problem-solving.
- Enhances and broadens the learners subject knowledge.

Value to the employer

- Integration of up-to-date work-based skills and subject knowledge.
- Completion of projects and assessment which can be of practical benefit to the organisation.
- Increase in staff morale and retention through investment in staff development.

Role of the employer

We value the support of the employer to ensure the learners get the greatest benefits from their study. The employer will have different roles and expectations dependent upon the nature of support and involvement.



- **Sponsored learner**

These are learners that are in relevant employment and have their fees supported by their employer. In such cases the learner may need access to work-based evidence and materials to support work-based assessment tasks, along with mentor support where relevant. As a sponsor you will receive termly progress reports. Please refer to the 'Sponsored Learner-Employer Guidelines'.

- **Work placement**

Work placements are extremely valuable for learners not within the industry to develop their work-based skills and experiences through a scheduled placement opportunity. In such cases the learner would require a 'link' mentor within the workplace and the opportunity to complete tasks that will meet the learning outcomes. This will be explained in detail between the Programme Leader and Employer prior to any placement. Please refer to the 'Work Placement Guidelines'.

- **Mentor support**

Learners value an identified mentor in the workplace to support and advise on assessment tasks and would be advisable for sponsored learners. In the case of Teacher Training, all learners will require an identified mentor. Mentor training is available. Please refer to the 'Mentor Training and Guidelines'.

- **Work-based assessment**

All our higher education provision involves continual assessment in the form of projects, essays, group work and presentations. We work to ensure all assessments are relevant to the learners place of work and/or needs of the industry. We welcome the advice and support from employers in reviewing and up dating assessments to ensure currency of provision.

Eamonn

Eamonn works for a large soft drinks manufacturer as a Sales and Marketing Manager. He left school with O levels and has always aspired to study to a higher level and in particular wanted to turn his work based experience into a qualification. He was able to apply each business and management unit to his workplace and in doing so, coming up with feasible suggestions for improvement, from both a personal and professional perspective.



One of his outstanding pieces of work was his research project in which he investigated sustainability within the soft drink industry, which is driven by the Government and has extensive R&D implications for the business. The findings were shared within the Marketing team of the business which enabled them to focus on the main outcome, which was consumer awareness and how it could make improvements.



Shane

Shane is a Foundation Degree in ICT student (CCNA Pathway), currently studying in his second year. Following redundancy, he enrolled on the course with the aim of developing his skills and gaining further qualifications in order to improve his employment prospects. He was attracted to the programme by its vocational nature and

convenient structure, and by the high levels of support offered to students.

Shane feels the work-based placement and Continuing Professional Development element of the programme have enhanced the skills needed to get back into work; indeed he secured a position with the placement provider. He reports that, "the vocational focus of the assignments has been very useful" in developing the skills he needs. For example, as part of one of his assignments, he has recently designed a database to log and track components for his employer.

Jacqueline Johnson

Jacq is a twenty three year old architectural technician and has been a student at Warrington Collegiate for four years. She has progressed from the level 3 National Certificate in Construction where she achieved a profile of Distinction/Merit.



Jacq works for a major homebuilder located in Warrington and she is currently working on numerous private housing developments in the North West of England. Jacq has used her work experience and knowledge to support her learning and this is evident in the role she has taken within the current group project. The group project is a unit that develops the students' ability to evaluate and resolve realistic practical problems and work as part of a team.

The unit aims to apply the skills and knowledge developed in other units of the Higher National Certificate (and experiences from work) within the proposals for a new building at Warrington Collegiate which reflects the type of performance expected of technologists within the construction industry.

Jacq has undertaken the role of the architect in this unit producing scheme designs which investigate the requirements of a clients brief through the examination of three dimensional spaces. She has also accepted the responsibility of a project manager by coordinating the team efforts by ensuring the programme of works are on schedule throughout the year.

Further information

Employer Forums

An opportunity for employers to support discussions on curriculum development and assessment.

October 2011, January 2012, May 2012

Work-based Projects Conference: July 2011

Learners shall be presenting their work-based projects to peers and employers

HE Employer Engagement Manager:

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