

Title - Assessment of Leisure Placements

Keywords - Employability, Assessment

Name - Fiona Jordan

School / Dept - School of Leisure, Tourism & Hospitality Management

Institution - Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education

Activity - Linking industrial placement activity with academic study

Group - Up to 100 Level 3 Leisure and Tourism Management students

Aim – To incorporate effectively student learning on placement with their academic study at university or college.

Context / Background - Industrial placements are compulsory for all students majoring in Leisure Management. They involve considerable preparation for students, take place in the 3rd year of a 4-year course, and comprise 48 weeks of full-time work. Students are visited at their placement twice (where feasible) by subject tutors.

Example - CGCHE has a full-time staffed placements unit. Preparation for student placements involves skills development, CV-writing, tutor support, and placement briefings. Students are able to search the placements database as part of their preparation. A very broad range of placements is offered, examples include Centre Parcs, Chessington World of Adventures, and David Lloyd Health Clubs.

Students must complete four learning contracts and departmental assessment forms, together with a portfolio analysis of the placement (up to 4,000 words). On return to College, there is a compulsory post-placement analysis module where students explore, critically analyze and share their experiences through student led seminars or exhibitions and personal portfolio work.

Results / Feedback - Student feedback on their placement experience shows that they value the experience, they believe the placements should receive credit, and that more could be made of networking opportunities.

Other comments - Students feel that more focus on law and finance would further prepare them for the workplace. This is being explored by the course team.