

Dr Maxine Swingler – Psychology

GAs Case Study Video Script

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/cO1wbVap108>

Who are you?

I'm Maxine Swingler and a lecturer in the School of Psychology, and project lead in the Graduate Attributes Roadmap project.

What was the activity and who were the participants?

I collaborated with colleagues in the Careers service, Earth Sciences and the Business School and with student representatives to develop activities to increase student awareness and development of GAs at an early stage in their degree. These included in class reflection activities, student led alumni events and careers workshops. We are now collecting case studies of good practice in employability across the university and will launch them on the LEADS website this year.

Why the chosen activity?

In the project we focused on 3 issues around GAs:

- Employers comment that graduates are technically very capable, but lack self-awareness of the skills they have gained both in the curriculum and out with it. Also students often don't record their achievements formally. We were interested in kick starting the reflection and awareness process earlier in the pre-honours years to prepare students for the graduate job market.
- A second issue is engagement. Typically, students engage less in optional employability activities in the early years of their degree. We wanted to provide students with opportunities to reflect on their GAs in class to encourage engagement with alumni and careers services.
- Good practice in GAs and employability is often localized within schools in the university. We wanted to showcase this good practice by collating a database of innovative case studies which highlight the benefits and challenges in enhancing employability for staff and

This video script is part of the 'Graduate Attributes – Roadmap for Staff' resource:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/leads/goodpractice/graduateattributes>

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students. These case studies have a strong focus on practical considerations, so that staff have a clear guidance on how they can adopt their own interventions in their subject.

What worked well?

The reflection activities in Level 2 worked well, and you can hear more about these in Heather and Jason's videos. Students were very positive about the alumni speed networking events, and particularly liked asking graduates questions in an informal atmosphere. Students really engaged with applying their skills to real world scenarios in the careers workshops. You can find out more about these activities and others in the case studies.

What were the challenges?

It can be challenging to find space in the curriculum to include reflection activities, and to encourage students to attend non-compulsory events. We tried to overcome this by timetabling GAs reflection in induction sessions, and collaborating with students in the organisation of the events.

Would you recommend this to other academics?

To find out more please visit our GAs resource on the LEADs staff facing webpages. If you would like to contribute a case study about what you do in your subject, we would love to hear from you.