

Geography+

Context

For many years a Level 6 module (GEO3030 Geographers at Work) has been delivered which: supports students' career planning; provides training on applications, CVs and interviews; requires students to reflect critically on their skills and achievements, and includes 'real world' project work. Employability support at Levels 4 and 5 has comprised: guest speakers, individual career planning tutorials, and 'careers day' events. To **enhance the employability support** offered to students at Levels 4 and 5, in 2014-15 the **Geography+** programme was developed.

About the Geography+ Programme

Geography+ provides additional employability and personal development support for Single Honours Geography students through:

- enhanced personal tutorials (using the staff time already allocated to this role; requiring the students to engage in skills audits, reviews and action planning);
- a series of timetabled workshops and activities, related to the Geography curriculum, to develop key employability skills (led by Faith Tucker, with support from careers advisers);
- guidance on using the University's Employability Plus scheme;
- engagement with 'change-making' activities related to the curriculum.

The programme is timetabled. There are hourly workshops every fortnight, each of which is followed-up with online activities via NILE or a personal academic tutorial.

The programme aims to support the development of the 10 key employability skills identified by the UoN careers team:

- Communication
- Team Working
- Positive Work Ethic
- Networking
- Organisation and action planning
- Problem-solving, Analysis and Investigation
- Self-management
- Leadership
- Opportunity-recognition
- Influencing, Persuading and Negotiating

Geography+ Part One (Level 4)

At Level 4 the focus is on the following key employability skills:

- Communication
- Team Working
- Organisation and action planning

The link between the development of these skills and performance in specific assignments in taught modules is emphasised.

In 2015-16 the programme comprises:

Workshops delivered by Declan Mee (careers adviser):

- Introduction to Employability Plus/Changemaker Hub
- Options after your degree

Workshops delivered by Faith Tucker:

- *Wells for India* fundraising activity – series of workshops where student groups design, carry out, and evaluate fundraising activities for our chosen charity (the work of the charity links to issues covered in Geography modules; Dr Kevin Cook is a Trustee)
- Using feedback to enhance your work
- IT skills for study and the workplace
- Making the most of the summer break

Online activities (developed by Faith Tucker):

- academic writing
- IT skills for study and the workplace
- career planning activities

Tutorials (Personal Academic Tutors):

- Reviewing skills and setting targets for development
- Progress review
- Identifying skills gaps and finding relevant work experience
- Review of achievements

Geography+ Part Two (Level 5)

At Level 5 the focus is on the following key employability skills to support career planning:

- Networking
- Self-management
- Opportunity-recognition

In 2015-16 the programme comprises:

Workshops delivered by Declan Mee (careers adviser):

- Introduction to Employability Plus/Changemaker Hub
- Options after your degree
- How do I find my ideal job?
- Networking

Workshops delivered by Faith Tucker:

- Developing an effective LinkedIn profile
- Enhancing your CV
- What skills are employers looking for?
- Identifying skills gaps and finding relevant work experience

Online activities (developed by Faith Tucker):

- Career planning audit
- Career planning activities
- Job search exercise
- Networking exercise

Tutorials (Personal Academic Tutors):

- Identifying areas for development and setting targets
- Review of skills developed
- Setting targets for obtaining relevant work experience
- Review of achievements

Future Plans

The team are currently undertaking a curriculum review of all Geography programmes and modules. We are considering incorporating **Geography+** into the taught programme to:

- make the programme available to Joint Honours Human Geography students;
- improve attendance and engagement;
- reduce the number of timetabled sessions;
- further embed 'change-making' activities within the curriculum.

It is envisaged that activities will be included in a number of compulsory modules, rather than being a 'stand alone' programme.

Geography+ has been developed by Faith Tucker, with support from Alma Clavin, Kevin Cook, Linda Davis-Sinclair, Chris Holt, Melanie Limb, Declan Mee, and Greg Spellman.

Faith Tucker, 6th January 2016