

# Employability Project

## Developing your Global Career: evaluating the project outcomes Midlands International Career Group

### Overview of project

This project delivered an online event running from 7-11 March 2016. It consisted of 13 webinars targeted at international university students, enabling them to make the best use of their UK experience and prepare for global employment opportunities. The project involved 16 Midlands universities working in partnership to run individual and collaborative activities, connecting electronically in real time with all events recorded and available for wider use.

### Project rationale and aim

As opportunities for international students to work in the UK after their course become increasingly restrictive, the importance of developing global thinking and pursuing global employment grows. International students need to increasingly focus on getting relevant work experience while studying, or before their student visa expires. At the same time they need to explore global job opportunities and actively plan their career for return to their home country. This project used the experience of careers professionals working with international students to address these trends in a positive way, providing opportunities for information-sharing, student employability development, employer and alumni engagement, reflection/action planning, and networking within the international student community in the Midlands.

UNICSA GRANTS SCHEME FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CPA AUSTRALIA

ARE YOU LOOKING TO BECOME A GLOBAL GRADUATE?

**DEVELOP YOUR GLOBAL CAREER VIRTUAL FAIR** 7th – 11th March 2016

JOIN US FOR A SERIES OF WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS TO HELP YOU TO DEVELOP YOUR GLOBAL CAREER.

The webinar programme covers the following themes:

- o Making the most of your time in the UK
- o Working Globally
- o Returning Home
- o Working in the UK/EU
- o You as a global professional

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to find out more from a wide range of organisations and skilled professionals to further develop your global mind set and also attend online workshops on up to date visa information.

To register visit: <http://midlandsinternationalgroup.eventbrite.com>

Any questions? please email: [midlandsinternationalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:midlandsinternationalgroup@gmail.com)

### Project objectives

- To enable international students to:
- Confidently seek UK opportunities for skill development, work experience and employment as students and graduates
  - Develop and implement a practical strategy for pursuing postgraduate opportunities globally and in their home country

### The benefits to international students and graduates

Intended benefits defined in project plan	How the project delivered the benefit
Utilising and maximising the knowledge, experience and resources from 16 Midlands universities, working in partnership, to create an event of size and scope not achievable by a single HE institution	To our knowledge this was the first online project of this kind involving a large number of universities. It brought together a range of expertise, knowledge and contacts which we were able to share with students across institutions
Increased opportunities to access information about work opportunities in students' home countries, globally and in the UK	Webinars covered a wide range of topics from global mindset, developing your global brand and making the most of UK study, to China-specific and employer-led sector-specific webinars
Receiving up-to-date visa information from a leading immigration solicitor	Covered in webinar on visa law delivered by Freeth solicitors and webinars on Tier 5 and Tier 1 visa applications
Learning from alumni who have established and developed their careers globally	Delivered through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur session involving Loughborough international student alumnus who presented on his experience in running his own business in the UK</li> <li>– Nottingham University alumnus presenting on her experience on careers in China</li> </ul>
Networking with other international students within their own institution to widen knowledge and opportunity awareness	Webinar webchat gave students and graduates the chance to meet online, share their own knowledge and experience

### The benefits to participating universities

Intended benefits defined in project plan	How the project delivered the benefit
Sharing good practice in work with international students	Planning and running the webinars enabled participating staff to learn from each other, and develop confidence in delivering online sessions
Enhancing awareness of global opportunities through sharing connections	Sharing knowledge and contacts enabled us to reach a wider range of students beyond our individual institutions
Creating a sustainable format of session delivery to a diverse institutional members	This format for delivery is being shared with careers professionals nationally and can be replicated in other UK regions

### Evaluating project outcomes

#### Web hits/viewing figures

There were 1,089 registrations for the webinar series in total, made by 450 individual students and graduates from across the 16 Midlands universities. 440 webinar attendances were recorded, with an average of 40 per webinar.

#### Quantitative data

All students registering for the webinar series were emailed a SurveyMonkey questionnaire asking them to rate their experience on a scale of 0 to 10 (where 10 is very helpful). The following data is based on the 29 student responses.

Question	Rating average
Quality of the information received in the session(s)	7.60
Opportunity for questions/interaction in the session(s)	7.70
Webinar materials in the session(s)	6.30
Overall satisfaction with the webinars	6.90

All respondents would recommend the event to a friend or course-mate.

#### Link to resources

The recordings can be accessed via [https://issuu.com/midlandsinternationalgroup/docs/dygc\\_march\\_2016\\_brochure](https://issuu.com/midlandsinternationalgroup/docs/dygc_march_2016_brochure)

A Midlands International Group website is currently being created to host the webinar series, our blogs and other resources relevant to international students.

<http://midlandsinternationalgroup.org.uk>

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