

Reading Employability, Writing Lives

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Employability in the Humanities at UCLan

- Centre for Employability Through the Humanities (2005-2010)
- Working with English module
- Employability 4 English project
- Employability Essentials (2012 onwards)

EN1216: English Literature Workshop

- Level 4 core module for English Literature degree
- Focus on personal development, employability and learning to be a student of English Literature in Higher Education
- Using concepts and methodologies from English Literature study

Indicative Activities

- Storytelling exercise
- Guided fantasy/ career values
- English Language/Literature card sort
- Reading/ writing autobiographies
- Close reading of texts around the subject of literary study (literary and non-literary)
- Exploring English Benchmark Statements
- Career ideas postcards

Assessment

- Essay portfolio (50%)
- Group presentation (20%)
- CV and PDP/ Skills statement (30%)

What works

- Willingness of students to enter into discussion and try out new ideas
- Developed awareness of Career Services at UCLan and other modules that aim to enhance employability
- Enhanced competency in academic skills and employability skills

What we're still working on

- Students struggle to get past notion of 'careers', particularly if they have had negative encounters with careers services at school or college
- Students view this module as 'different' and sometimes prioritise work for 'proper' literature modules.

Moving forwards

- A spine of core employability provision at Level 4, 5 and 6
- Clear progression between levels

EN1216: English Literature Project I

- Focus on enquiry-based learning and development of research skills
- Underpinned by employability development but not as overt as previous incarnation
- 1 hour learning about a skill, one hour practising it and 2 hours reporting back.

EN2127 English Literature Project II

- Based on project work, grounded in subject.
- Students work individually or in groups on one large project to be delivered by the end of the academic year.
- 1 hour per session in advanced skills workshops then the rest of the session is dedicated to group/project work and the practical application of skills.
- Assessed through project report, critical analysis and proposal for final year dissertation

EN3992 Literature Dissertation

- 10% of dissertation mark is assessed by participation in Dissertation Conference
- Students learn to present themselves and their work in a professional context
- Developmental step from EN2127
- Students also have the opportunity to mentor a second year student, developing their leadership skills and communication skills

Questions?