

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT TEAM

CAREERS AND
EMPLOYABILITY

WORKING WITH YOU

Careers and
Employability



University of
Chester

Directorate of Access, Skills and Apprenticeships

INTRODUCTION TO THE EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Employer Engagement Team (EET) is the specialist group of staff dedicated solely to providing services to employers and are responsible for facilitating interactions between employers, students, graduates and academics.

The team is the first point of contact for employer enquiries and works closely with University of Chester colleagues from our Work Based Learning, Business Growth Programmes and Commercial Operations departments.

The EET manages and delivers the following services:

- Employers in the Curriculum
- Employer in the Foyer Events
- Get a Graduate Job Scheme
- UniJob (internal student recruitment service)
- Vacancy Advertising
- Workplace Experiences
- Employer Insights

Led by **Sally Harding, Employer Engagement Manager**, the team comprises of:

- **Kirsty Badrock, Employer Engagement Co-ordinator** - Responsible for employer engagement and the management of Workplace Experiences
- **Christine Lawlan, Employer Engagement Administrator - Placements** - Responsible for the delivery of Workplace Experiences
- **Suzette Farrell, Vacancies Co-ordinator** - Responsible for the management of vacancy advertising and UniJob
- **Kaz Flynn, UniJob Administrator** - Responsible for the delivery of UniJob
- **Rebecca Turner, UniJob Administrator** - Responsible for the delivery of UniJob
- **Helen Farrall, Employer Engagement Team Administrator & Project Co-ordinator** - Responsible for the administration of the team

WORKING WITH YOU

We are keen to highlight the ways we can work with employers to raise awareness of your organisation within our student and graduate community and to promote your employment opportunities.

INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIVERSITY

The institution's original buildings were the first in the country to be purpose-built for the professional training of Teachers. The first cohort of 10 male student Teachers had been taught in temporary premises in Nicholas Street from February 1840, until increasing student numbers led to a move to further temporary accommodation in Bridge Street later that year. The need for a permanent site led the Dean and Chapter of Chester Cathedral to donate land adjacent to Parkgate Road and the new facilities were opened in 1842 for the 50 student teachers and their school pupils. The Parkgate Road Campus, now renamed to Exton Park, has subsequently been developed to accommodate the needs of students and the University still provides higher education in this location and at other sites in the city and beyond.

Education qualifications remain significant and are now a fraction of over 200 courses on offer. In the 20th Century, the institution steadily expanded its student numbers and the variety and nature of its courses, which range from Animation to Zoo Management.

The University of Chester now has over 1,800 staff and some 17,000 students, drawn from the United Kingdom, Europe and further afield, particularly from the United States, India, China, Nigeria, Turkey, Uganda, Pakistan, Ghana, Bangladesh, Qatar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Japan, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

As well as undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, a new range of foundation degrees and apprenticeship degrees combines conventional university study with learning at work.

THREE FACULTIES

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Society

Faculty of Science, Business and Enterprise

CHESTER LEARNING SITES

Exton Park
Creative Campus, Kingsway
Wheeler
Queen's Park
Bache Hall
The Hammond

UNIVERSITY CENTRES

University Centre Birkenhead
University Centre Reaseheath
University Centre Shrewsbury
University Centre Warrington
Thornton Science Park

EMPLOYER PATHWAYS

Employer Pathways, our approach to employer engagement, enables us to deliver a high standard of service to all employers and recruiters that we work with, at a level of engagement which meets their current requirements, and to progress our relationships as appropriate - at an Associate or Partner level.



Partner Employers are those organisations who wish to engage in our employability-enhancing activities during the academic year. Each Partner Employer is assigned to a dedicated member of the Employer Engagement Team and their account is effectively managed through regular meetings, at mutually agreed intervals, to ensure that the requirements of both parties are met. Like an Associate Employer, Partner Employers can advertise their vacancies to our students and graduates, at no cost, on our CareerHub system.



Associate Employers are those organisations whose requirements are met by advertising their employment opportunities to our students and graduates, at no cost, on our CareerHub system. NB: we are keen to actively support employers who wish to progress from being an Associate Employer to a Partner Employer, through the development of strong employer partnerships.



Employer Insights

We are currently compiling a series of short, branded videos to showcase employers to our students and graduates. Employers can introduce themselves as an organisation whilst addressing questions often posed including:

- **What employment opportunities do you have?**
- **What current challenges is your sector facing?**
- **What do you look for in a potential employee?**
- **What is your recruitment process?**

These insights are invaluable as students and graduates embark upon their career search, whilst raising awareness of local, regional and national opportunities our Associate and Partner employers may have.

If you wish to be featured in our Employer Insights gallery, please email employers@chester.ac.uk to receive the full video brief.

VACANCY ADVERTISING

Employers can advertise their jobs, at no cost, through the University's CareerHub platform. If you have part-time work opportunities, a seasonal role or a graduate-level opportunity, you can promote your vacancy to our student and graduate community on our fully GDPR-compliant, self-managed platform.

Many of our students wish to earn some extra money while studying and undertaking part-time work helps them to do this, as well as boosting their future career prospects. Through our current 'Earn While You Learn' campaign we are particularly encouraging employers to consider advertising any part-time jobs they may have available now or in the near future.

Create your CareerHub account [here](#), and simply post your roles, including salary/hourly rate of pay, directly on to the site for our students and graduates to view and apply to.



EMPLOYER IN THE FOYER EVENTS

We invite employers to visit the University with a recruitment stand to promote your opportunities, including part-time jobs, placements, graduate jobs, graduate schemes and internships. We host employers throughout the academic year, at a mutually convenient day, within dedicated spaces at three learning sites (Exton Park, Wheeler Building, Queen's Park Campus) where you can engage with students over the course of a few hours or a full day. There is no cost incurred by participating in our Employer in the Foyer events.

We are now taking bookings for the 2023/24 academic year. Please email us at employers@chester.ac.uk to receive a booking form.



“

We came to speak about our Summer Graduate Scheme and yesterday we had an offer accepted by one of the students I met at the event so, a success!!



Workplace Experiences are paid opportunities, designed to help the students and graduates of the University of Chester to develop their skills and knowledge, in a real working environment, while building industry connections.

Being a Workplace Experience host is an ideal way for you to attract enthusiastic, highly-skilled employees from our talented pool of students and graduates, to help support your business to progress and thrive.

As a greater number of us are adapting to remote/virtual working, employers may also be able to reap the benefits of hosting a student or graduate through a remote/virtual Workplace Experience. **Where appropriate for the job role, we're now able to offer eligible employers the opportunity to access funding to host a student or graduate in this way.**

- Workplace Experiences can be recruited all year round, funding permitting, providing you with a pipeline of new talent and potential employees
- Employing students and graduates can bring a fresh, innovative approach to your business and may help you to develop new ideas. Students and graduates can also bring knowledge of the latest techniques and technology from their studies, into your organisation
- Students and graduates can help to ease the existing workload of your team, as well as providing mentoring opportunities to current employees within your business
- You can design a project which will benefit your organisation, as well as providing valuable work experience for a student or graduate.

There are currently four live programmes:

- Inspiring Futures Scholarship Placements
- Santander Scholarship Placements
- Graduate Internships
- Business Growth Internships

Find out about available funding, eligibility criteria and 'next steps'.

If you would benefit from a fully-funded or part-funded placement student or intern and wish to offer a Workplace Experience, please email workex@chester.ac.uk to find out more.

Bursary Assessment Associates appointed Amber Talbott as a Marketing Analyst intern, they said:

“

Three weeks into her internship with us, Amber is making an impact, leading her own project, bringing fresh insights, challenging our thinking and doing an incredible job working remotely and independently. We have been blown away with her work so far and wanted to highlight the opportunity for other businesses who may be able to offer an opportunity to talented young people like Amber. If you haven't thought about it yet, get in contact with the Employer Engagement Team.

GET A GRADUATE JOB SCHEME

If you have a permanent, graduate-level position to fill, let us help you connect to final year students and recent graduates of the University of Chester through our Get a Graduate Job Scheme. We will work with you to develop brand awareness on campus through a low-risk recruitment process.

Through this free service, you'll have direct access to our talent pool, with the dedicated help of the Careers and Employability Team.

We will intensively promote your role(s), through our dedicated vacancies platform, to Chester students/graduates across your application window. We'll work behind the scenes to engage with talent from across the University; targeting those with the skills and experience you require.

Throughout the process, we will ensure that candidates are supported. Prior to their interview with you, our Career Consultants will be on-hand to prepare our students/graduates so that they're interview ready!

If you have a role that would suit a final-year student, as they transition into the workplace, or a recent graduate we would love to hear from you. Please email employers@chester.ac.uk.



Employers in the Curriculum



As employability has moved higher up the agenda across UK Higher Education, the appetite to deliver more meaningful activities with employers has increased.

At the University of Chester, we are keen to foster the engagement of employers with our academic colleagues, working in close partnership with the Careers and Employability service, to enable our students to participate in active and authentic learning.



Employers can visit a lecture or seminar, to deliver a 15-minute careers talk, to let students know about your organisation, your employment opportunities and your recruitment process. There will also be the opportunity for students to ask you any questions they might have!

If you wish to speak to a particular student group, please email us at employers@chester.ac.uk and we will enquire with the relevant academic department to try and arrange this on your behalf.

Through active and authentic learning, we aim to bring real-life learning into the curriculum by developing relationships between our employer partners and our academic colleagues as key influencers on students' future career choices.

Active and authentic learning involves employers being involved in the curriculum through lectures, seminars or workshops. This may involve:

- employers participating in **panel sessions or department led conferences**
- employers proposing real-world industry problems, **providing students with opportunities for discussion and debate**, enabling them to identify potential recommendations and solutions
- **employers suggesting projects which students may work on within their academic modules**, by agreement with the relevant academic member of staff. Projects could be part of a student's learning, assessment or dissertation, with employers taking part in the assessment process where appropriate.



We are developing a bank of employers who wish to be involved in active and authentic learning. We would kindly ask you to email employers@chester.ac.uk should you wish to discuss this with a member of the team.

Employers in the Curriculum

In practice

English at Work

MODULE

Thew Arnott are a thriving family-run business where history and tradition blend seamlessly with excellence and innovation. Thew Arnott emerged from the London fogs of the mid-19th century at a time when 'drysaltng' was a mystery to many. Over the years, the company evolved and grew as it traded under a variety of guises from 'shellac bleachers' to 'gum merchants' to 'colour manufacturers'.

Thew Arnott contributed to the English at Work Module - students were tasked with researching the company before a Q&A session with the Sales Manager around the organisation, their values, their opportunities and how English students could apply their skills within the food industry.



Thew Arnott

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE EVENT

A collective of employers came together for the Department of Finance and Accounting 2023 Conference; an event to introduce Chester Business School students to the finance world through a series of talks and networking opportunities.



Computer Science

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MODULE

Draw & Code use cutting-edge technology to make awe-inspiring experiences. "A Powerhouse of innovation, our agile studio has built a core team that lives and breathes emerging technology".

Draw & Code contributed to the Computer Science Experiential Learning Module, delivering an interactive workshop whilst offering insight regarding their recruitment methods.



WE CAN FACILITATE INTRODUCTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING TEAMS:

Degree Apprenticeships

Designed by employers for employers, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are an opportunity for businesses to train and support next generation managers.

Work Based Learning

Become a placement provider for a second year student over a 5-week period (April - May) at no cost to your organisation.

Year in Industry

Offer a paid 12-month placement to a student studying an undergraduate course within the Chester Business School.

CONTACT

E: employers@chester.ac.uk

T: 01244 513066

W: employers.careers.chester.ac.uk