

Careers and Employability



Student Focus Group

Welcome and Introduction

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EMPLOYABILITY
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**

Emily Packer, Careers Adviser





Student Focus Group

WELCOME

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Student Focus Group Coordinator

Emily Packer

Careers Adviser

Careers and Employability Service



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Aim of Tonight

Over the next academic year, we will be operating a Student Focus Group to give you, our students, the opportunity to shape the future of the careers and employability service.

- Understand the ethos of the Student Focus Group
- Understand how the SFG will function and key dates
- Understand opportunities for skills development

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Purpose

The main purpose of the Student Focus Group is to act as a critical friend and focus group reflecting the overall student experience of the Careers & Employability (C&E) Service at Plymouth University.

Focus group members have an impact on our quality improvement and C&E Service strategies whilst enhancing their personal communication and leadership skills and making a positive contribution to the development of the member's employability development.

Through its work the focus group inputs into quality improvement and the Student Experience of the C&E Service and ensure the services self-assessment and future planning are informed strongly by the views of students.

What is the Careers and Employability Student Focus Group?

Student discussion and task group

Aims to offer positive suggestions and is solution-focused

Shape the future delivery of Careers and Employability activity for students

Key information

- Six sessions across the academic year
- Different topic regarding the service per session
- Repeated sessions
- 15 students per session
- You can attend as many or few as you would like to
- All groups run 16.30 – 18.30 in the Careers and Employability Hub
- All dates and booking can be found on the [Student Focus Group website](#) (link)
- We will let you know how, if and when we will use your ideas and suggestions

Who will or can attend?

Any student! Our Student Focus Groups will ideally contain students from all years, and from a range of courses.

If you cannot travel to the Roland Levinsky Building then you can arrange a Skype or Skype Messenger participation.

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Format



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How will a session run?

Attend with 15 students
across the university

Through discussion
come up with key topics
or focus on a topic we
know is key

In smaller groups come
up with what a positive
solution to that topic
may 'look-like'

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Smaller groups
feedback as one and
suggestions are
recorded

Management feedback
given by Coordinator at
next appropriate
meeting

Key Topics

- **Social media and communications**
- **Placement support**
- **Careers advice**
- **Presence on campus**

- **Events**
- **Topics covered in sessions and events**
- **Graduate recruitment**
- **How to access the service**
- **Student lead on topics**

1

What word comes to mind about the Careers and Employability Service?

2

Write down a question you have for the Careers and Employability service?

3

How can we help other students know the answer?

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Stick your answer up on the wall

Stick your answer up on the wall



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HOW CAN I BENEFIT?

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Skills Development

- Discussion skills
- Group task skills
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Solution-focused approach to problems

- Strategic thinking
- Professional relationships
- Making a difference
- Representative for other students
- Time to contextualise your study

Interview Questions

“Can you give an example of when you have made a positive contribution to a group? What role did you play?”

“How have you contributed to a discussion and taken a solution-focused approach to problem solving?”

What else?

- Confidence working in groups
- Contributing to university services
- Feeling a sense of achievement

- Pride in that achievement
- Working with university professionals
- Create new networks

Plymouth Award

You can use the time spent on the focus group towards your [Plymouth Award](#).

- 80 hours of activities:
- You can choose activities across at least three of the following:
- Personal health and wellbeing
- Working life
- Volunteering
- Cultural and social awareness
- Supporting the University community



PLYMOUTH
AWARD

Amazon e-Voucher

To say
*thank
you*

For each
full session
attended

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KEY DATES

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Key Dates for 2016

Tuesday 11 October 2016: session 1

[Book my place](#)

Wednesday 19 October 2016: session 1 repeated (introduction for any new starters)

[Book my place](#)

•Monday 7 November 2016: session 2

[Book my place](#)

Thursday 17 November 2016: session 2 repeated (introduction for any new starters)

[Book my place](#)

Monday 5 December 2016: session 3

[Book my place](#)

Key Dates for 2017

Wednesday 18 January 2017: session 4

Monday 6 February 2017: session 5

Thursday 23 February 2017: session 6

Tuesday 7 March 2017: celebration event

How to Get in Touch



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