**Department of Computing and Technology
School of Science and Technology**

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY

A Journey of Student-Employer Engagement Throughout an Undergraduate Degree

Dr Jo Hartley; Hollie Fothergill; Chiletam Ogbu

bcs The Chartered Institute for IT
Enabling the information society

Contents

Employability of Computing graduates

Influence of industry on undergraduate courses

Recent increased student-employer engagement

- Level 4 on-campus embedded opportunities
- Levels 5 and 6 group/individual projects
- Guest lectures at all levels

Discussion of priorities

Summary

Employability of Computing graduates

Computing at NTU has an excellent employability record, within 6 months of graduating (2016/17) :-

- 95% employed/in further education with 87% 'graduate' employment;
- Sandwich students - 96% employed/in further education with 91% in 'graduate' employment

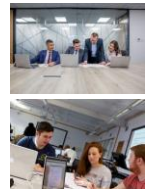UK HE Computing graduates – 82% in 'graduate' employment

---

Influence of industry on undergraduate courses

Relevant courses

Industrial placements – sandwich courses

Degree show

Industrial input – Relevant courses

Work with industry on course design

Balance of technical and transferable skills

Balance of generic and vendor-specific knowledge

At a recent re-accreditation event, the department was commended in the following areas:

- The authenticity of assessment specifications applied in a real-world context

bcs Educational Affiliate

L6 modules

Mobile Platform Applications – Capital One
- Support in labs by Mobile Dev team

Mobile Platform Development – Microsoft and Asos
- Groups of students gave video elevator pitch
- Top 5 groups pitched in person

Serious Games – Consultant Clinical Psychologist
- Real-case brief
- Students met with their client to discuss the context and requirements
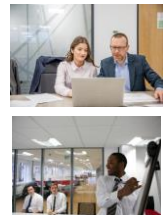
Industrial Placements

Degree Show

Industrial presence at Degree show

Additional Recent Student-Employer Engagement Opportunities

Embedded Opportunities at Level 4

Projects at Levels 5 and 6

Embedded Opportunities at Level 4

Term 1
- **Welcome week** - Industrial challenge
- **Digital Horizons week** - Company visits, Industrial challenge, Work in Tech for 1st years, Alumni presentations, Mock interviews

Terms 2 and 3
- **Professional Development for Industry module**
  - Guest speakers – local companies and Employability
  - Assessment - Group presentation, Poster conference, CPD

Projects at Levels 5 and 6

18/19:
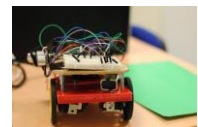
Group projects L5 – 3 Project briefs provided by industry

Final Year Project L6 –3 Project briefs - Enabling Innovation – local SMEs - Students created prototype - Student/employer met every 2 weeks or so at NTU/SME

19/20:
Good number of briefs already

Challenges
- Level/fit of project
- Uptake by students

Guest Lectures

18/19:

Open lectures – Refinitiv and BCS

Module lectures – Cloud Computing, Applied Maths, Prof Dev for industry, Understanding the IT Industry

19/20:

Good number of companies to add to the schedule

Challenges

- Level/fit of lectures
- Uptake by students

Company	Topic	PD for Industry L4	Poster Conference L4	Understanding the IT Industry L5
BCS/Uniper Energy	BCS Code of Conduct	Yes		
MHR	Development Methodologies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Refinitiv	IT Security	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paraxel	Digital Industry	Yes		Yes
BCS/Cisco	Internationalisation	Yes	Yes	Yes
NTU	Web Accessibility	Yes		Yes
Onyx Insight	Transition to Work	Yes		Yes
DVSA	Testing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paraxel	DevOps			Yes
Capital One	Lego Scrum workshop			Yes
Legendary Games	Games Industry			Yes
CRF Health	Technology in Medical Trials			Yes

Discussion point …

Consider your priority
- Open lecture/Module lecture/Assessment brief/Projects

Priority for 19/20		
Pros/Advantages	**Cons/Challenges**	
…	…	

Discussion point …

Consider your priority
- Open lecture/Module lecture/Assessment brief/Projects

Priority for 19/20		
Pros/Advantages	**Cons/Challenges**	**Solutions**
…	…	…

Some solutions …

Link to assessment – CPD, coursework brief, exam questions

Increase size of audience – open lecture for all, pizza, timing

Closer link through visits, mentoring

…

Points of Advice

- Get in touch with the Employability team
- Develop established links
- Arrange meetings – on campus / at the campus / by Skype
- Provide schedule with expected time commitment
- Manage expectations
- Be flexible

Dr Jo Hartley - Computing & Technology Subject Manager

Hollie Fothergill – Business Advisor (Employability team)