**Career Readiness in curriculum**

This overview is intended to provide clarity of Career Readiness and support further discussions and planning for implementation. The Career Readiness strand of the HSE commitment identifies four themes to be embedded at every level within the curriculum.

1. Develop self-awareness
2. Explore career options
3. Job-seeking skills
4. Professional development and action-planning

These themes support student's career planning and development towards and beyond graduation and are proven to enhance lifelong career progression and achievement. When designing your course, Career Readiness may sit entirely within the work experience module, or it may be located within a number of modules across each level of study. It could also be supplemented by co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. The delivery of these themes is varied and should be designed and delivered to best suit your subject area and be tailored to support the career readiness of your students. These themes include a number of components to best support success:

**1. Develop self-awareness**

Key components to develop a student's self-awareness for career readiness include:

* their personality, values, interests and motivation
* their transferable skills and graduate attributes as developed within their curriculum, co-curricular and extra curricula activities
* their career options
* reflection throughout their course

**2. Explore options**

Key components to enable a student to explore their career options include:

* An awareness of the full range of career options open to them now and what might lie ahead in the future locally, nationally and internationally (including those not directly related to their degree discipline)
* A recognition and understanding of the different working environments: graduate programmes and jobs, SMEs, internships, self-employment, freelancing and portfolio careers, and private/public/third sector opportunities available to them.
* Access to alumni/employers/practitioners/professionals/mentors from a range of potential career areas.
* An awareness of the variety of further study possibilities.

**3. Job Seeking skills**

Key components to improve a student's success in securing highly skilled graduate employment include:

* Knowing how to successfully navigate the different recruitment and selection processes now and in the future
* Confidently articulating their subject knowledge, skills, attributes and experience gained through their course and extra-curricular activities both within and outside the university.
* Developing and maintaining a professional an online presence such as LinkedIn and know how to capitalise on this to secure employment.

**4. Professional development and action planning**

Key components to improve a student's professional development and action planning include:

* Understand what is meant by professional behaviour in relation to their career area of interest, and demonstrate and receive feedback on professional behaviour.
* Being commercial aware, ready to adapt to fit any changes within an industry or employment demands.
* Appreciate the changing nature of work, and the value of creativity, flexibility and adaptability.
* Planning for career success and setting out steps towards achieving this by actively researching and identifying their career aims on the basis of growing self-awareness and understanding of career options now and in the future.

**Key Contacts**

For more details on these themes and associated components, your Employability Consultant can advise on appropriate Career Readiness content, module design or course level integration:

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