

May 2021

SHU APPRENTICESHIP NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the May 2021 Apprenticeship Newsletter, covering:

- Apprentice of the Year - Help with your award application!
- Stepping out – reflections and activities
- Andy Womble on Leadership Opportunities

- Disabled Student Support – message from the team

The [Apprentice support triangles](#) offer a full range of support options. Now is the time to seek help from your Academic Advisor, your Work Base Learning Coach, and your workplace Mentor – you have until June 30th to apply for the [Sheffield City Region Apprentice of the Year Awards](#). *Good luck!*



Stepping out – reflections and activities

At this exciting time, we each face different opportunities and challenges, socially, academically and in the work environment. Refreshed opportunities now shine a spotlight on the unusual patterns we may have adopted during Covid.

For example, I recently received some interesting, but concerning research about the impact and nature of *gaming*. Unsurprisingly perhaps: The average age of a gamer is 28 and most of us engage in gaming *most days*, More alarmingly, the piece explored more extreme aspects including the *Gamification* of far-right recruitment. An eye-opener perhaps? - Coming out of Lockdown we will all face different challenges.

I personally want to celebrate the opportunities from increasing freedoms, but also hope we can be aware of what others around us might need. If you know someone who might need help: <https://reportandsupport.shu.ac.uk/>

On a lighter note, hopefully you have spotted some of the engagement *activities* in the weekly Student digest, including:

- Hallam Active's [fitness classes](#) and [social sports sessions](#)
- Sheffield Doc Fest, 4 to 13 June <https://sheffdocfest.com/>

Andy Womble on Leadership Opportunities

As an Apprentice you will continually review your progress and make critical judgement about your own development. Your Progress Reviews are a key opportunity to update your E-portfolios to capture new and advancing knowledge, skills and behaviours.

The [STARE](#) method can help you to shape up that evidence, but always check with your Apprenticeship Course Leader and Work Based Learning Coach
- how does final evidence needs to be submitted for End Point Assessment?

Your negotiating skills are important in securing the right experiences and getting your training plan focussed. You need to pull up areas of lower developmental gain, but also keep stretching yourself towards ambitious targets for key strengths.

I want to highlight a couple of opportunities to strengthen, or supplement your knowledge skills and behaviours around *leadership*:

- **Common Purpose Leadership Training** - The Sheffield150 leadership training takes place over four days on 14- 15 June and 17-18 June It's free but needs to be booked: <https://commonpurpose.org/locations/common-purpose-uk/>
- **Global Leadership Forum**: Hallam has purchased 50 places for our students on the on Wednesday 16 June from 5pm to 8pm. Once again, first come first served: [Book here](#)

Disabled Student Support
- A message from the team

Hello from the Disabled Student Support team

First of all, we would like to share a 'real story' of an apprentice with you- we think it speaks volumes about the benefits and rewards of getting support in place...

"I came to university later in life than usual. I always knew deep down that I may have had dyslexia (someone could have picked an easier word to spell), but this was never diagnosed until I came to Hallam in my mid 30's. I spoke to my courses lead about my undiagnosed dyslexia, and they put me in touch with the disabled student support team. I went for a test and bingo, what I thought I had was confirmed this was a very strange feeling - I felt insecure and ashamed - to be honest, I didn't feel like I was worthy to be at university. But the disabled student support team were excellent, they supplied me with training and various hardware and software to support me. They also got me an external support tutor who I use as a sounding board when it comes to writing up my assignments, she has shown me little tricks on how to present my work and use more academic words from the Manchester phrase bank for example. Without this support I know, I would have dropped out because I would not be getting good enough grades and I would have found the work even more difficult than it is now in my last year."

Many other learners have found this support a game-changer and various studies have shown that it can make a significant difference in academic achievement- here's more information...

If you have a disability, such as a long-term medical condition, a specific learning difficulty e.g., dyslexia, or a mental health condition, then additional support is available to support your study. The Disabled Student Support team ensure that your support is tailored on an individual basis, depending on your circumstances- the nature of your disability, and the demands of your course. Support that other apprenticeship students have found useful includes:

- Regular 1:1 study skills tutorials, to develop effective group work, presentation and workload management skills

- Regular sessions with a mentor to assist with time- management, organisation and minimising anxiety
- Specialist software to support your academic work, such as read-aloud software and mind-mapping software
- A learning contract – a document we give to your university tutors (with your consent) to ensure they know how best to support your learning.

To get support, you need to register online – once you have done that, we will get in touch with you. If you have any problems in registering, please contact us. If you would like to talk to a member of the team to discuss any disability-related queries, book into a Quick Query appointment. We encourage you to disclose at the earliest possible stage so that you can benefit from as much support as possible. We understand that the decision to disclose your disability or long-term condition can be difficult. We would like to reassure you that we store your information securely and will only share relevant information with your permission.

Further information about registering with our service, contacting us and booking an appointment can be found <https://www.shu.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/disability-support>

Footnote:

Copyright Sheffield Hallam University

[AIIR](#) is a set of web resources developed to work alongside your apprenticeship programme, it includes: [Onboarding](#) [Succeeding in your off-the-job training](#) [Well-being and support](#) [Equality, diversity and inclusion](#) [British values and Prevent](#) [Careers information, advice and guidance](#)