Highbury College Employability Statement

Highbury College is committed to enhancing the sustainable employability of its students to enable progression and success in a competitive, dynamic, knowledge based global economy. Our programmes and support services are designed to equip students with the entrepreneurship and employability skills, and understanding and personal attributes that will help them gain employment, function and succeed in their chosen occupation.

Career planning is a tool for academic success, and crucial for continuing professional development, lifelong learning and successful career management. Activities supporting personal and professional development are an integral part of the College's programmes and the wider student experience through our Student Support Services, and enhance employability. Academic staff and the College's Careers team provide high quality information, advice and guidance to develop students' future working lives and professional opportunities through group and individual sessions, including: careers guidance and planning; CVs and applications; practice interviews; job notice boards; job shops; industry work place shadowing; and talks by employers.

All full time programmes have an assessed work placement unit. Students are actively involved in placement preparation to ensure that placements provide developmental opportunities and support current and future career interests. The College also provides volunteering and mentoring activities through its Leadership Academy to widen students' career options.

The College's programmes have been developed in close liaison with local, regional and national employers to equip our graduates with the skills needed in industry. The College works with over 1,000 employers and has well established relationships which inform curriculum design and delivery. Our Foundation Degrees in Construction and HNCs in Engineering provide entrance to relevant professional bodies, and our Foundation Degree in Computer Networking incorporates CISCO and Microsoft qualifications. Hospitality and Travel and Tourism Management programmes provide opportunities for students to gain industry related qualifications.

Enhancing employability is central to the curriculum; activities include: projects commissioned by employers or for employed students, projects making a contribution to the workplace; development of higher order and professional skills through individual and group work; employer involvement and contribution to the design and delivery of the curriculum and assessment process; employer and employed graduate guest lectures, work shadowing; and industry visits. Wider employability skills such as communication, literacy, numeracy, personal and social, team work and leadership skills underpin the curriculum.

The College promotes enterprise and entrepreneurship within programmes and as part of wider enhancement activities; for example, through sessions on setting up your own business and a College wide competition judged by external business people.

All programmes include an assessed personal and professional development (PPD) unit which develops the skills, attributes, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours needed for modern working practices, entrepreneurship and career progression.

Further subject specific information about employability can be found on the College website: http://www.highbury.ac.uk/client/content.asp?ContentId=230