

# Work Based Learning: Autonomous Learners And Satisfied Students?

Alison McHale

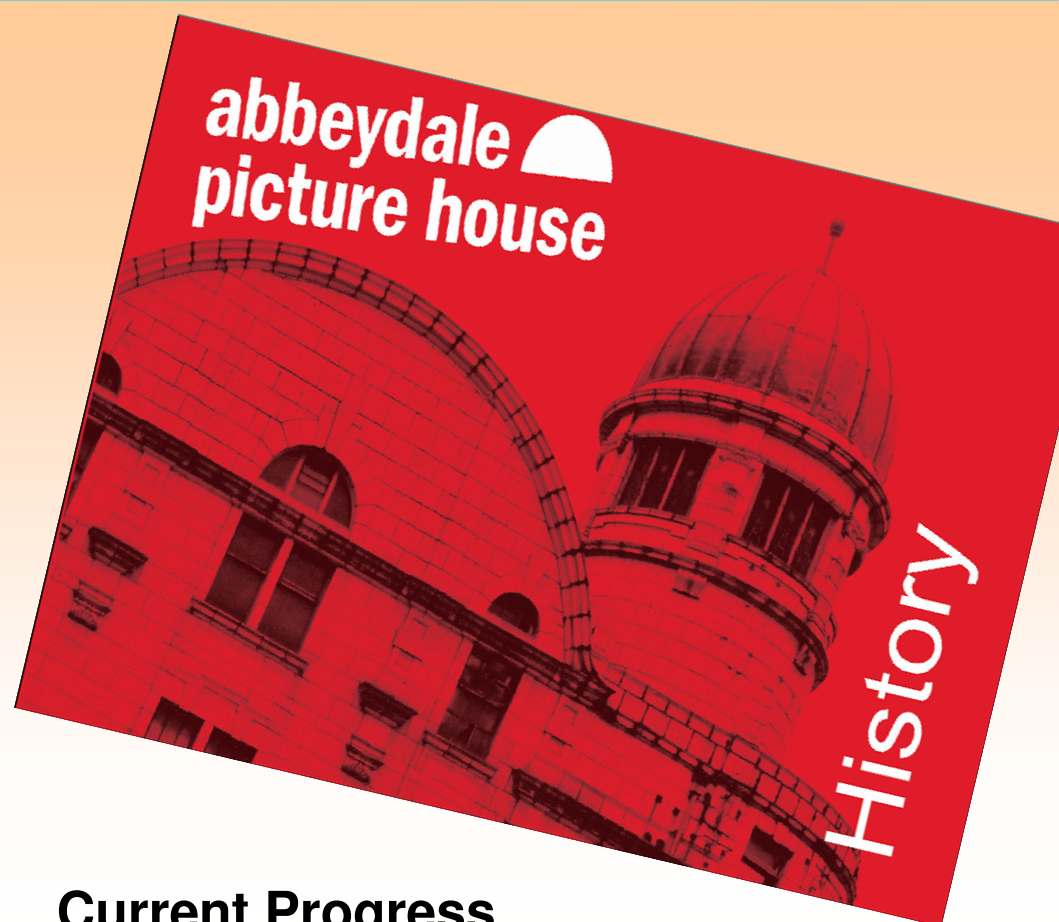


## Aims

This project seeks to establish quantifiable evidence of 'worth' for the development of Work Based Learning across the Humanities in terms of student awareness of becoming an autonomous learner; enhancement of degree/university experience and relevance to graduate employability.

## Objectives

- To engage students in a transparent research exercise in assessing their perceptions of self as autonomous learners before, during and after the year long module.
- To examine the suitability of tutor delivery and support for this module.
- To gather feedback from partner/stakeholder agencies on their perception of our students' learning/skills.
- To create a researched resource in support of the wider agendas of recruitment, retention and transition to employment.



## Current Progress

### Going well

- All 85 students established on a Work Based Project
- Initial base line survey and mind mapping done
- Promotional film in progress using D&S support
- Enjoying workshops, at elbow support and collegiality of CETL experience
- Support from D&S placement team added bonus

### Not going well

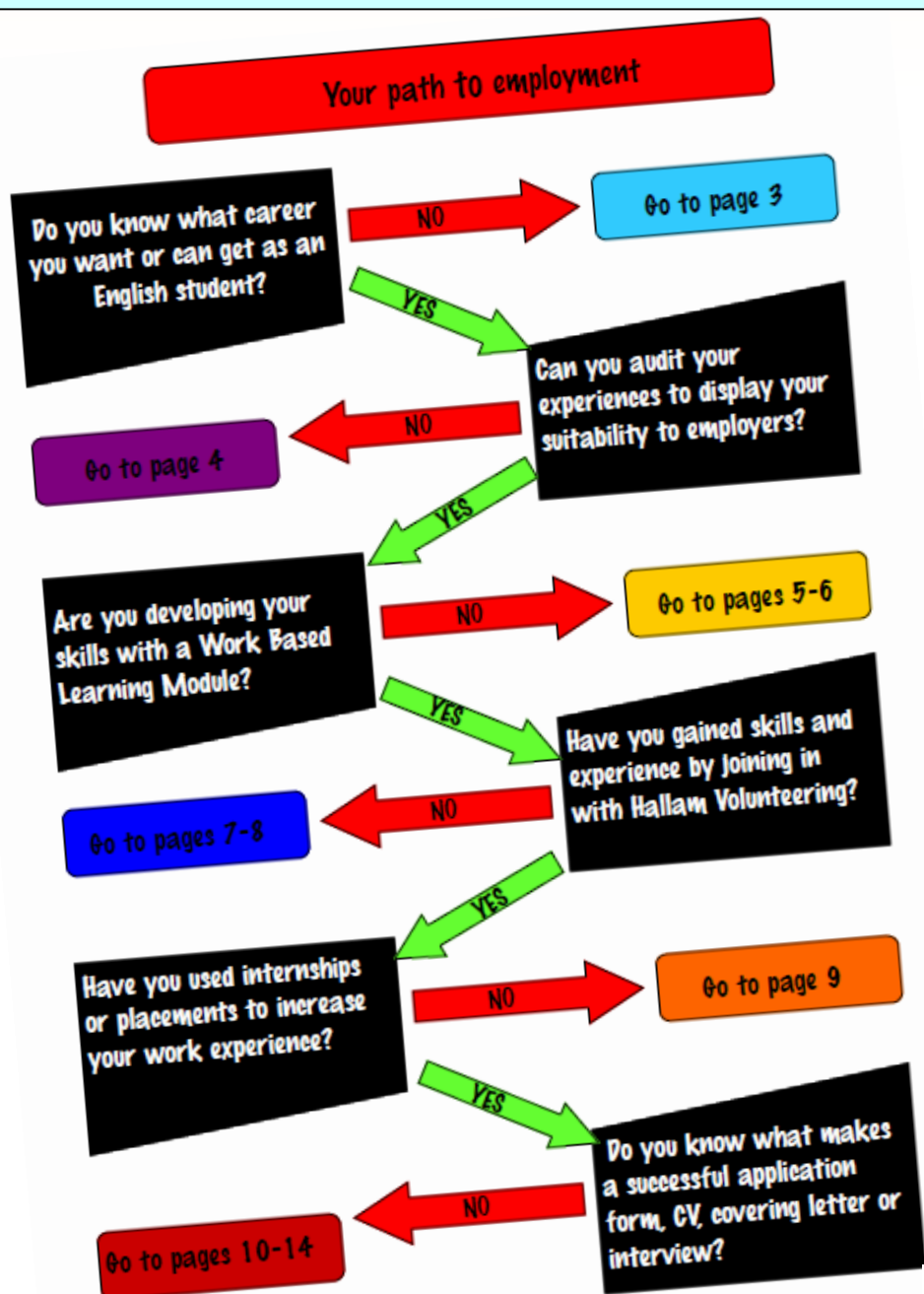
- Not secured Masters researcher- wrong cycle for recruitment
- Filming could be better- tremendous learning curve

### Future plans

- Promotional filming for better informed module choice
- Second survey of perceptions, skill assessment and mind mapping
- Possible Vox Pop opportunity for students to make unstructured feedback?
- Conference paper at UCLAN conference June 2010 secured
- Contact WBP providers/hosts for stakeholder views on students' abilities and skills

### Support needed

- I find the offers of support from the CETL team very encouraging and immediate
- Learning more about filming techniques; questions to gather information
- May need support in analysing visual mind map data?



Alison McHale, Humanities Department, Faculty of Development and Society  
[a.mchale@shu.ac.uk](mailto:a.mchale@shu.ac.uk) 0114 225 6310