Developing A Student-Centred Placement Preparation Framework

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Aim: To develop learner autonomy and employability skills through a student-centred placement preparation framework

Objectives:
- to enhance the **student experience**
- to improve **employability skills**
- to help students take **greater responsibility for their learning on placement** in terms of **preparation, engagement** and **outcomes**

How?

- **students determining content of pre-placement module** (This has been achieved through a questionnaire to current placement students identifying most useful aspects studied and any gaps in their knowledge)

- **practical advice to help students acclimatise to their placement period** (This has been achieved by current students sharing a variety of survival tips on everything from accommodation, funding, utilities, socialising, studying, travelling and emergencies)

- **building confidence and increasing motivation** (Again current placement students have given their top tip for a successful placement period—realistic but inspiring)

  "Be open-minded. You'll meet so many great people" Zoe Ashman, currently on placement in Paris

  "Don't ever give up if you are finding it hard as it is worth it in the end" Amy Barrow, current final year

  "Be open and make the most of all situations" Emily Mawson, on placement in Brittany

  "Live it. You'll have good times and bad times but this is the only time you'll ever get to do something like this" Dawn Woodhouse, currently on placement in Paris

- **small group mentoring sessions** (organised between final and 2nd years to provide 121 Q&A on specific placement companies)

- **peer mentoring event** (linking all final, 1st and 2nd years to find out from the horse's mouth, share experiences and ask questions)

  "talking to past students was very useful. I found out a lot of new information and this has made me more confident about going (really excited)" event participant

- **students working collaboratively** to provide **solutions for situations** they will face (both within the classroom and in the language learning resource centre)

- **improving CV, application letter and interview techniques** (through feedback from line managers in placement companies)

  " We are very happy with the standard of applications from Sheffield Hallam University." " The quality of the phone interviews is good, the candidates are well prepared to present their skills and experience." Monika Nagyova, Senior Community Manager, Toluna

- **collaboration with SHU careers and employment service for final years event** (121 support to help final year students translate skills and competencies gained on placement into graduate employment)

  "Very helpful at planning for future and highlighting weaker areas" current final year *"ability to critically analyse placement year"* current final

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