Preparing Teaching Students to Enter the Labour Market

In December, all 32 Scottish Local Authorities are invited to a mini careers fair where students can speak to them about their induction year and ask about future job opportunities following their induction year.

**School/Subject Area:** Education

**Target Audience:**Final Year BEd Students and PGDE Students (Primary and Secondary Education Programmes)

**Staff Involved:** Teaching Organisation Secretary; Careers Adviser; NASUWT Consultant

**Dates/timings:** Delivered annually in December and March

Key features

Two events with a combination of external speakers and workshops aiming to address several issues including:

* ensuring that students have sufficient information about all the local authorities in Scotland and their recruitment practices before making decisions about the location for their induction year;
* ensuring that students have information about recruitment practices for teaching and advice on teaching applications and interviews prior to starting their induction year so that they can plan ahead;
* ensuring that the Canadian PGDE students (approximately 25 students per year) who are not eligible for the induction year in Scotland are provided information about the alternatives; and
* ensuring that students who do not wish to qualify through the induction year are informed about the alternatives.

Events

In December, all 32 Scottish Local Authorities are invited to a mini careers fair where students can speak to them about their induction year and ask about future job opportunities following their induction year.

A number of talks and workshops are also arranged as part of the day including:

* Alternatives to the Teacher Induction Scheme (TIS) – for students wanting to qualify via the Alternative Route, teach elsewhere in the UK or overseas.
* Canadian Students: Moving on from the PGDE – options available to them in the UK and returning to Canada.

Careers Service staff are also on hand to answer individual queries and questions from students.

In March/April, a training consultant for the NASUWT talks to students on finding their first teaching appointment, seeking to provide both advice and motivation as students near the end of their initial teacher education.

Planning

The Education Teaching Organisation Secretary liaises with individual Local Authorities to ensure their attendance at the careers fair in December.

Moray House staff, the Careers Adviser and the NASUWT liaise regarding suitable dates for the training consultant’s lecture in March.

Planning work is undertaken by the Careers Adviser in preparation for delivering the talks for Canadian students and on alternatives to the TIS.

Resources

Aside for the preparation time required for the various talks and sessions in the December session, handouts are printed for students to take away on the day and are uploaded on to WebCT.

Following the talk in March, the NASUWT provide a pack for all students who attend containing advice on teaching applications and interviews, together with a booklet providing details of all local authorities in the UK and their contact details.

Evaluation

Student feedback on the talk from the NASUWT is always extremely positive. The students appreciate the insight that the consultant has to offer and the inspiration he provides.

Students also appreciate the opportunity to find out about alternatives to the TIS and generally report that they find it useful to get that information early on in the academic year in order to help them with planning ahead.

Students also appreciate the opportunity to speak with local authorities on an individual basis.

Advice

Ensure all that sessions are advertised well in advance of the date in a variety of ways including e-mail, posters, and mentioning in lectures.

Ensure that students are made aware of the reasons why this is being delivered to them now (and not during the probationary year) – they need to plan ahead and be organised.

Be conscious of practicalities. On the TIS day the local authorities are based in several different rooms – ensure that students are aware and encourage them to speak to as many as possible.

Ensure that information in talks and any resources is kept up to date regularly, particularly given the constantly changing labour market.

Key contacts

[Michelle Melrose](mailto:Michelle.Melrose@ed.ac.uk), Teaching Organisation Secretary

[Rebecca Valentine](mailto:Rebecca.Valentine@ed.ac.uk), Careers Adviser

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/employability/staff-information/how-employability-addressed/good-practice/hss/preparing-teaching-students>