

2012 UNIVERSITY ANNUAL LEARNING & TEACHING CONFERENCE

2012 & Beyond

Theme: the Hull Graduate

13:30 – 13:50

The benefit of hindsight: capturing post-graduation experiences to enhance graduate engagement and employability

Dr Graham Scott, Biological Sciences

Abstract:

Employability is a key issue for both the Government and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), with the recent economic downturn and the expansion in HE, the competition for jobs in the graduate employment market is intense. Several reports and studies have been commissioned regarding graduate skills required by employers in the workplace. These studies have included science graduates and their views on which areas of training are, with hindsight, lacking in their undergraduate degree programme. There are, however, few studies which combine the views of current students, former students now in employment and current lecturing staff. This project explores which key skills and knowledge elements which with hindsight our employed graduates see as having key value in their working life. We also intend to understand the perception of current students and lecturing staff to these elements of our provision. Questionnaires exploring which key skills graduates, current students and staff think are important, will be distributed out. Quantitative analysis of these data will lead to more in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus groups exploring the issues that arise from these questionnaires further.

It is hoped that the results of this study will lead to redevelopment of the curriculum to increase student engagement and enhance student employability.