

# Leeds Met Jobs and Careers

## Quantity or Quality - Dilemmas of Careers Work with International Students

- 70 countries, 2500 non EU students, 750 EU students – numbers vary by time of year
- India, Saudi Arabia, China and Norway top
- Foundation year, undergraduate and postgraduate, short English and cultural courses, Saturday workshops.
- Seeking part time work, international graduate jobs or degree related placements plus academic qualifications.



# What is careers guidance?

- Not just information and advice
- Not just about getting a job
- Quality one to one time, student led
- Not narrowing in choices but exploring options
- Building confidence and positive attitude
- Teaching creative thinking, planned happenstance
- Not counselling but can include counselling techniques.



# So what's the dilemma?

- Managing international students' expectations - balancing being positive with being realistic – economic situation
- May be recruited through 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Language and cultural barriers
- So much relies on networking
- They need more time.



# Some strategies

- Facilitating employer contacts
- [Job Shop](#) recruitment agency
- Promoting importance of [volunteering](#)
- Overcoming low point – personal plans
- Booking longer appointments for in depth discussion, time to build rapport.
- Welcome event, early introductory sessions, regular lecture shouts, preparing to go home event and graduation
- Working closely with tutors to pass on jobs and placements
- [Online resources](#).



# Initiatives this year

- Going Global
- International careers café
- English for Employment
- List of courses with international students to target for specific vacancies e.g. jobs between China and UK or languages. Efforts to identify interpreting and translation opportunities
- Tutors' careers pages for own course and close work with placement officers
- Separate workshops e.g. assessment centres



# English for Employment

- Taught jointly with English (TEFL) tutors
- Part of series (Academic English, Referencing, Library)
- Free Saturday course
- 30 students
- Labour market information
- Interactive – songs, accent
- Interview role play
- Phone practice



# International Careers Cafe

- 4.30 to 7 pm
- Food, drink, music
- Employers to chat to
- Break out workshops e.g. CVs and Cover Letters
- Careers advisers around to answer questions



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# Questions?