THE NETWORKING EVENT

Annual networking event organised by the School of Psychology. This event is designed to give students the opportunity to network with a variety of professional Psychologists, Industry representatives and potential employers in a relaxed setting.

EVENT AIMS:
1. To enhance student networking skills.
2. To increase student knowledge of a range of relevant career paths.
3. To highlight relevant postgraduate study programmes available in Scotland, and provide students the opportunity to find out more about each one by talking to course organisers.

DEALING WITH THE CHALLENGES

Challenge: Students felt uncomfortable engaging in freestyle networking, particularly approaching professionals at the start of the event.
Response: Provision of additional support through a lecture on networking skills and a ‘networking guide’.

Challenge: A high level of organisation is required to book the room, schedule speakers, attendees and organise catering.
Response: Recruitment of a student networking event team, and sufficient admin support.

HOW THE EVENT SUPPORTED STUDENT TRANSITIONS

1. Provide insight into the reality of employment and day-to-day work tasks through interaction with employed professionals.
2. Highlight the transition period through professionals sharing their own transition experiences.
3. Provide information about career paths, including post-graduate study criteria and required work experience.

PROFESSIONAL ATTENDEES
- Clinical, Occupational, Sports, Health, Counselling and Forensic Psychologists
- Marketing professionals
- Teachers
- Post-graduate study programme co-ordinators
- Entrepreneurs

STUDENT ATTENDEES
- L3 and L4 Psychology students

It was great, meeting interesting people and getting information on graduate programmes.
The event gave the students the opportunity to have one-to-one time to ask me specific questions.
I liked the atmosphere; being able to talk freely and in a relaxed way.
Freestyle mingling allowed for flexible discussions.
I appreciated the chance to give and receive advice.
There was a useful range of people from different fields.

USING NETWORKING TO SUPPORT STUDENT TRANSITIONS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT

School of Psychology, Dr Amy Irwin