

PMI2 Employability Projects Overview 2007 – 2009

The Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education, commonly referred to as PMI2, is a five year strategy to secure the UK's position as a leader in international education and sustain the managed growth of UK international education, delivered both in the UK and overseas. The strategy comprises four interconnected strands: UK positioning; ensuring the quality of the student experience; strategic partnerships and alliances; and diversification and consolidation of markets. A number of international student 'employability' projects have been, and will continue to be funded through PMI2 over the next couple of years. They are delivered by AGCAS, NASES and a variety of project partners.

Support for students and graduates

International Graduate Jobs was developed by HECSU and The Careers Group, University of London. It includes organisations with vacancies and those likely to offer other forms of education and training such as work experience, internship or voluntary work.
www.prospects.ac.uk/international_graduate_jobs.htm

An **Induction and Orientation Package** has been developed by NASES to improve international students' knowledge of the UK work culture, and their ability to secure part-time work by progressing through a part-time job recruitment process. Guidance notes and workshop presentations for use by practitioners can be downloaded at
www.nases.org.uk/content/index.php?page=193945

An award winning **Mentoring Package** was developed by the University of Liverpool, with Edge Hill University and Liverpool Hope University. Local employers, institutions and experienced international students worked together to help students enhance their university experience and part-time job opportunities. Materials are available to download at
www.nases.org.uk/content/index.php?page=193925

The **morethanwork** project developed the existing NASES website for students by adding modules specifically aimed at international students, providing advice on combining work with study. It was launched in April 2008.

The range and depth of information available to international students and to careers advisers and education providers across the UK has been developed through the production of country specific guides **Starting your career in - Country guides for international students**. As well as providing useful information about the labour market they also contain information about finding and applying for jobs, which sectors are offering the best opportunities, and useful information sources. Guides for nine countries were written in 2009 and a further six countries added early 2010.

For students and graduates: <http://www.nases.org.uk/countryguides>

For practitioners: http://www.agcas.org.uk/agcas_resources/132-Starting-Your-Career-In-Country-Guides-for-International-Students

Support for careers and employability advisers

A **virtual learning environment** has been developed for new careers service staff with an easily available induction package on internationalisation. It provides an additional forum for new careers service staff to discuss and share issues and experiences in dealing with international clients. It also enables new careers service staff to become aware of the issues facing international students faster, and therefore more quickly productive in dealing with international clients,.

Another virtual development is the **online web community** which enables staff assisting international students to share best practice more widely and effectively. It also facilitates the development, in a collaborative manner, of more resources for careers and employment professionals advising international students and graduates.

A study visit to China took place in March 2009 to enable careers and employability professionals assisting international students to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing international students and graduates in finding employment. The visit report can be downloaded from the AGCAS website:

www.agcas.org.uk/agcas_resources/133-China-Visit-A-Report-on-the-AGCAS-and-NASES-PMI2-Visit-to-China

Staff training and development has been an important part of these projects, training courses have been provided to meet the needs of careers and employment advisors in their day to day work with international students.



Support for employers

In 2009 PMI2 funded CIHE to undertake research with employers to identify the barriers to the employment of international students. The **Global Horizons** report was produced July 2009 and is available on the NASES website www.nases.org.uk/content/index.php?page=193855. **A guide for employers recruiting international students and graduates** was published in 2010 and is available from the British Council website www.britishcouncil.org/eumd-pmi2-employability.htm

NASES ran an **International Student Language Utilisation** pilot project in the Midlands region to maximise the use of international students' language skills in part-time employment whilst studying in the UK and to introduce international students to the UK employment sector. It also aimed to enhance international students' confidence and opportunities in the UK employment sector, especially for those wishing to stay here after completing their course.

A national competition to identify the **International Student Employee of the Year** was successfully launched by NASES in 2008. The aim of the award is to recognise and promote the contributions and achievements of international students who combine part-time work with their study commitments. Nominations can be submitted by students, employers or job shops, with entries being co-ordinated through institutional job shops. The award was successfully repeated in 2009 and 2010 and is now an established award in the NASES Student Employee of the Year portfolio of awards.
www.nases.org.uk/seoty

