

PMI2 Employability Projects Overview 2007 – 2011

Projects of specific relevance to FE

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 funded through PMI2. They have been delivered by AGCAS, NASES and a variety of project partners. Most of those delivered by NASES are of relevance to the FE sector.

Guides covering 15 countries have been produced by i-graduate for international students and returning graduates as **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, using social media for job hunting, example CVs, which sectors are offering the best opportunities, and useful information sources. They are available on the NASES website for students and graduates and on the AGCAS website for practitioners.

www.nases.org.uk/countryguides

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

The NASES **morethanwork** student website was originally developed as part of PMI2 2007 – 2009. The second phase added a skills tracker and other skills focused materials to help international students understand the distinction between employability and employment, how to develop skills to increase their employability, and case studies of students who found work.

www.nases.org.uk/internationals

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. Specific **FE training events** designed to develop the skills and expertise of employability staff working with international students within the FE sector were delivered by NASES on a regional basis. They were developed following research with NASES members in FE and so targeted at their needs. Training resources are available on the NASES site:

www.nases.org.uk/wwistraining

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. It also aimed to enhance international student's confidence in relating to the UK employment sector and securing part-time work. Guidance notes and workshop presentations for use by practitioners can be downloaded from the NASES website 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. The mentoring package was a pilot project designed to help international students enhance their university experience and part-time job opportunities through mentoring relationships with employers or other experienced international students. It aimed to strengthen relationships between institutions and local employers, and create a model for them to adopt in future relating to the recruitment of international students. Marketing and training documentation can be downloaded from the NASES website.

www.nases.org.uk/content/index.php?page=193925

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. It has been further enhanced as part of a second PMI2 funded project. In addition to improving the search functionality, the general interface and usability of international graduate jobs it also highlights value added related content.

www.prospects.ac.uk/international_graduate_jobs.htm

Study visits to India and China have taken place to enable staff assisting international students to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing international students and graduates in finding employment. Reports can be downloaded from the AGCAS website:

www.agcas.org.uk/agcas_resources/203-India-Visit-A-Report-on-the-AGCAS-and-NASES-PMI2-Visit-to-India, and www.agcas.org.uk/agcas_resources/133-China-Visit-A-Report-on-the-AGCAS-and-NASES-PMI2-Visit-to-China

During 2009/11 10 HE careers services ran **innovative pilot projects** aimed at developing international alumni networks, workplace contacts, awareness of the labour market in different PMI2 target countries and case studies demonstrating successful employment. Reports from Phase 1 can be downloaded: http://www.agcas.org.uk/agcas_resources/227PMI2-Pilot-Projects-2009-2010

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. This was rolled out to four more regions during 2010/11, and universities worked with local employers and internal contacts. Additional national level agreements were made with organisations such as Podium to help international students use their language skills at LOGG and Paralympics games 2012.

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

