University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/2025

Title of Module: Placement Learning			
Code: COMP09075	SCQF Level: 9 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 40	ECTS: 20 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Science		
Module Co-ordinator:	Frances McCormick		

Summary of Module
The purpose of this module is to allow the student to experience the world of work on an extended basis during a 10-12 week placement. This opportunity allows the student to put in to practice the skills, techniques and knowledge gained throughout the course. Undertaking this module will develop a range of graduate attributes such as being work ready, effective communicator and problem solver.
Since this module is scheduled to run during the second trimester there can be opportunities for <u>some</u> students to be retained in a paid capacity. It also allows students to use this opportunity as a 'taster' to discover which aspects of vocational employment they find appealing.
The mechanism by which students are selected for a particular placement is very employer dependant; some wish to interview; others will select solely on the basis of supplied CVs while others will trust the judgement of the Placement Co-ordinator. Factors which are important are the student's interests (academically speaking) and ease of travel to and from the Placement.
Successful completion of this module will serve students well when competing for appropriate employment and in their approach to the honours project in the following year.

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning
☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒
See Guidance Note for details.					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery
The module will **normally** be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)

Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements) **These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module.** At the end of this module the student will be able to:	
L1	Achieve computing and transferable skills/competences to SCQF (level 9) through a period of placement learning to a standard that is consistent with 'employees' of similar educational background and be relevant to the programme of academic study.
L2	Complete a reflective journal critically evaluating employability development and performance as part of PDP.
L3	Construct a comprehensive account (including a report and an oral presentation) critically analysing the work of the organisation; the tasks performed; the procedures employed and a reflective analysis on how the student's behaviour, approaches, attitudes and skills have been adapted or modified consequentially.

The placement will provide opportunities to allow the student to extend and refine their subject specific knowledge in particular contexts. **Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills**	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF Level 9 The placement will provide opportunities to allow the student to extend and refine their subject specific knowledge in particular contexts.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level 9 Depending on the nature of the placement there will be opportunities to develop new practical skills / techniques or develop the application of specific skills / techniques to an advanced level or practice within a range of professional contexts.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level 9 A critical analysis of the business of the placement employer must be provided in the final report. The student will also have the opportunity to reflect on the successes or difficulties of the

	placement and on the transition to working in a context that is vocationally relevant.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **9** Students will have increased opportunities to refine their inter-personal communication skills. The opportunities to use, display and develop these skills will vary considerably with the nature of the placement.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level **9** Although working in a supervised capacity it is expected that there may be opportunities to exercise some autonomy and initiative.

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	**Module Title:**
	Other:	
Co-requisites	**Module Code:**	**Module Title:**

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Learning and Teaching
The majority of teaching and learning will take place off campus but will involve support and supervision from academic staff. Prior to placement, students will be provided with information on health and safety, equality and diversity, preparing a CV and report writing. A placement learning partnership agreement will be agreed and signed by all parties. The proposed programme is compliant with the University's Work Based Learning and Placement Learning Guidelines, the University's Regulatory Framework and the QAA code of practice on work-based and placement learning.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Work Based Learning/Placement	300
Independent Study	10
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	90

	400 Hours Total

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Module resources on the University's VLE to support the student on campus and in the workplace.   Trought, F., Brilliant Employability Skills, Prentice Hall, 2017   Cottrell, S., Skills for Success: Personal Development and Employability, Palgrave Macmillan, 3rd edition, 2015   Hepworth, A., Studying for Your Future - Successful Study Skills, Time Management, Employability Skills and Career Development - A Guide to Personal Development Skills. (Skills Training Course), Universe of Learning Ltd., 2011
(**N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)
Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure: Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.   For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following: The student is working full-time in a company whilst doing this work-based module.

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.   Please ensure any specific requirements are detailed in this section. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics..
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Computing
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐ No ☒
School Assessment Board	Business & Applied Computing
Moderator	Gerry Creechan
External Examiner	A Jindal
Accreditation Details	
Changes/Version Number	2.1

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

There will be **two** components of assessment for this module.

Component 1 - a questionnaire (30%) for the employer to complete at the end of the placement based on rating the student against set criteria.

Component 2 - which consists of 3 assessments for the student, a presentation (10%), a reflective journal (30%) and a final report (30%).

Assessment 1
The presentation can be in different formats to suit the target audience. Eg presentation, demonstration, or poster format. The target audience can be UWS staff and peers within the University or the Company.

Assessment 2
The reflective journal will critically evaluate employability development and performance throughout the work experience as part of the student's personal development plan (PDP).

Assessment 3
The report will discuss the work environment, the work carried out by the student, relationships with co-workers and peers, achievements and challenges faced and a critical evaluation of their own work and how they perceive the whole experience to impact their current/future employability. The student will be supplied with a detailed specification of the requirement for this assessment, including the assessment criteria and a recommended structure for the written report.

(N.B. (i) **Assessment Outcomes Grids** for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.
(ii) An **indicative schedule** listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Component 1							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	**Learning Outcome (1)**	**Learning Outcome (2)**	**Learning Outcome (3)**	**Learning Outcome (4)**	**Learning Outcome (5)**	**Weighting (%) of Assessment Element**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Placement/WBL	✓					30	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	**Learning Outcome (1)**	**Learning Outcome (2)**	**Learning Outcome (3)**	**Learning Outcome (4)**	**Learning Outcome (5)**	**Weighting (%) of Assessment Element**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Report of practical/ field/clinical work		✓	✓			30	0
Review/ Article/ Critique/Paper		✓	✓			30	0
Presentation			✓			10	2