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Paper 143 – Full Paper

Embedding employability within the curriculum and enabling students to develop networking opportunities

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Abstract

The Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture (FADA) at Kingston University recently launched a new website: Kingston Futures www.kingstonfutures.com to help students understand more about the choices available to them as they complete their course. Kingston Futures aims to make explicit the ways in which students can move in to their chosen career or discipline area.

Kingston Futures has four parts:

Alumni Stories: provides short films with recent alumni talking about how they felt as they finished their course and what they did next, whether this meant an internship/placement, employment, self employment or further study. There is lots of advice for students on ways of identifying job opportunities, contacting companies, preparing a CV and compiling a portfolio, interviews, networking etc. Each alumni talks about what worked for them and advice they may have for students in their final year and as they finish.

Student Profiles: enables students from the Faculty to upload their own image, personal summary and web links. This makes students visible allowing them to see what others on their course, and across the Faculty, go on to do creating a FADA networking community. Practices and employers etc will also be able to see these profiles and follow up with students and alumni who can update their information on an ongoing basis even after they have left the University.

Links and Resources: relevant links for all discipline areas which are regularly updated.

News and Events: regular updates with information on events, workshops, job opportunities etc.

This presentation will discuss the structure, setting up and potential of the Kingston Futures website as an approach to embedding PDP and employability within the curriculum and creating a networking community of students and alumni. It will be of particular interest to delegates involved in PDP, employability, alumni initiatives, e-learning, and use of blogs and podcasts.