

Employability Statement – York College

York College is fully committed for all its students to be prepared for the world of work. This is integrated into their studies, whether this is at FE or HE level. The overarching Employer Engagement Strategy includes the following statement;

‘Our strategic principles lead us to believe that we can offer high quality specialist education and training in a flexible and appropriate way for local and regional employers. Our employers have indicated that they value our professionalism and flexibility.’

The following information summarises the work that goes on in the College to support student engagement with work related learning to ensure they are prepared and work ready when they leave the College. More details on award specific information is available in programme specifications available on the College website (www.yorkcollege.ac.uk)

Activities available that prepares students for employment include;

- A wide range of higher education awards, particularly Foundation Degrees, have Work Related Learning and Personal Professional Development modules which explicitly link employment with individual’s aspirations and goals.
- Access to specialist delivery staff who have direct links with sector representatives and organisations. This is complimented by central careers advisors to support students in preparing applications and identifying job vacancies.
- Opportunities for work placements are an integral part of some programmes of study, or can be agreed as an additional component.
- Access to sector organisations seminars and conferences.
- Business and employer sponsorship of projects and assignments which contribute to the programme of study.
- Access to simulation placements, such as the Clinical Skills Unit at the University of York for our Nursing students.
- Extensive range of guest lectures and presentations from current practitioners, such as the uniformed services, craftspeople and designers, beauticians and therapists, software developers, etc.
- The College appoints specialist Higher Education Employer Skills Advisors, who are current business people and practitioners working in the industry, and work with the programme teams to ensure the content is in line with what the industry requires, and is fit for purpose.
- Participation in local, regional and national competitions to reflect commercial practice.
- Work undertaken on commissions for business organisations and individuals.

Where it is required the programmes are aligned to professional standards to ensure they reflect sector needs. Where there is a need to comply with

licence to practice the students are advised on what is required or this is built into their study programme.

Support is available to assist students in their preparations for application to employment through job search, CV writing and interview techniques. Opportunities to explore self-employment and enterprise is promoted through various award specific content and can be evidenced through the College led visual enterprise scheme to support graduating designers and craftspeople to develop as small business enterprises.

Students other enterprises, whether this is through part-time paid employment or volunteering work, is recognised as opportunities to contribute to their studies wherever possible.