



OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK IN SCOTLAND

Careers Services of the four
West of Scotland Universities



Opportunities to Work in Scotland project

- Origins and progress of project
- Points for reflection
- Next steps

Origins and progress of project

- 2005

Project officer with a budget organised five sector specific panel sessions in Glasgow City Chambers for international and UK job-seekers from Glasgow Caledonian, Glasgow, Paisley and Strathclyde Universities and Bell College.

Attended by 375 job-seekers from 5 institutions

Progress of project

- 2006

No project officer or budget. Five careers services organised six sector specific panel sessions at Strathclyde University for international and UK job-seekers.

*Attended by 241 job-seekers from 5 institutions
- 52% from Strathclyde University*



Progress of project

- 2007

Small Challenge Fund budget, but no project officer. Glasgow Careers Service organised an exhibition for all sectors at Glasgow University for international and UK job-seekers with support from other careers services at the event.

Attended by 257 job-seekers – 80% from Glasgow University



Progress of project

- 2008

No project officer or budget. Four careers services organised a conference at Glasgow City Chambers and visits to local employers for international and UK job-seekers.

Free venue + Talent Scotland sponsored catering

Attended by c.150 job-seekers from Glasgow Caledonian, Glasgow, Strathclyde and West of Scotland Universities



Points for reflection

- Value of AGCAS network
 - Careers services had already worked together.
 - Feasible for Steering Group to continue after departure of project officer.
- Value of project officer
 - Central point of contact for speakers + venue managers
 - Publicity agent for all universities
 - Evaluation and follow up after events

Points for reflection

- Value of central budget
 - End of funded project did not trigger alternative budget from universities. No funds for central, neutral venue or project branding for publicity
- Reluctance of students to attend events on campuses other than their own even when publicised by their own careers service.
- Difficulty in attracting employers if there is too much emphasis on events being chiefly for international job-seekers.



Next steps

- Budget constraints are likely to be even more of a consideration in 2009 – for both careers services and potential employer and local authority sponsors.
- Steering group of four university careers services will continue to meet:
 - to evaluate 2008 events
 - to plan for 2009 using their usual creativity!