

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Retention and Progression) Award

Name of project and institution

Career Confident, Cardiff University

Brief Description

Career Confident supports eligible students who may not feel confident about securing work experience or employment. The team provide a tailored development plan, consisting of employability support and bespoke work experience tailored to meet individual student's needs. The support can include funding for training, events, and expenses to make sure that funding is not a barrier for students. Career Confident has enabled students to access a wide range of opportunities that would not have been possible if it was not for the team's hard work and creativity to create exciting and accessible opportunities.

Why has this project been nominated

Career Confident supports eligible students who may not feel confident about securing work experience or employment. The Career Confident team, based within Student Futures at Cardiff University is funded via the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) Targeted Employability Support Scheme (TESS). The funds aim is to enable HEI's to provide targeted employability support to students from under-represented groups and/or from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The team works with students one-to-one to understand their career aims, commitments, and availability to create a tailored development plan, consisting of employability support and bespoke work experience tailored to meet their needs. The support can include funding for training, events, and expenses to make sure that funding is not a barrier for students.

Career Confident has enabled students to access a wide range of opportunities that would not have been possible if it was not for the team's hard work.

I have nominated the team for the way they have worked creatively and tenaciously in sourcing and providing tailored employability support to meet individual student's needs to enable them to be successful in the world of work. These opportunities are not available to the main student cohort and have been developed exclusively for Career Confident students.

How long has the project been running

Launched Nov 1 2022, built on the ESF GO Wales: Achieve through work experience programme, which ran successfully for six years. The Targeted Employability Support Scheme (TESS), is funded by Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and is delivered across all Higher Education Institutions (HEI) as well as directly-funded Further Education Institutions (FEI) in Wales. Cardiff University has used the TESS fund to deliver Career Confident.

Number of participants for each year of the project's operation

Since 1 Nov 22, 325 students have been supported.

More details

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/work-with-us/develop-your-workforce/recruit-our-graduates/supporting-under-represented-students>

