



FAST TRACKERS: LINKING EDUCATION TO INDUSTRY FOR WIDENING ACCESS

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Overview

- 137 L3 Engineering students from Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Stoke and Crewe
- Funded by NCOPs, with match funding from Network Rail and Mott MacDonald
- Organised by NCOP leaders, NR & MM Leaders and 30 engineering graduate interns
- Designed to bring together FE, HE and employers and give young people experience of where engineering could take them
- Project element accredited by Industrial Cadets (gold award)

Programme Aims and Objectives

Intervention	Aims
Launch trip to University of Liverpool Faculty of Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce HE-level engineering• Taster lecture• Practical workshop• Set the project-based challenge for London
Engineering employer visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industry visit• Experience engineering in the 'real world'
London residential stay (3 days 2 nights) supported by UCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase social capital: Travel first class on Virgin Trains with sessions on the trains from Virgin, NR and MM• Apply knowledge: Project-based challenge: design the new Euston station for HS2• Increase cultural capital: Visit new London Bridge station, HS1 line, Euston, and other London engineering landmarks• Understand pathways within engineering careers: Visit Institute of Mechanical Engineers and Institute Civil Engineers• Develop skills: Present project to senior managers at NR and MM

London Residential

- “Cultural capital” and soft skills
- Prizes for the best project – including top prize of a helicopter ride
- Networking with engineering employers and HEI staff
- Presenting their plan to MPs, CEO of Network Rail and others



Evaluation

	I am likely to consider going to Uni/HE	I am aware of the range educational opportunities available to me after I leave college	I am aware of the benefits of Uni/HE	I am able to make decision about what I will do when I leave college	My current study is important to my future	I know about the different styles of courses you can study in Uni/HE	I had already thought about a career in Engineering/ I am now more likely to consider a career in Engineering
Pre	25/33 (76%)	26/33 (79%)	28/33 (85%)	24/33 (73%)	29/33 (88%)	23/33 (70%)	31/33 (94%)
Mid	22/38 (58%)	34/38 (89%)	33/38 (87%)	33/38 (87%)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Post	29/37 (78%)	36/37 (97%)	34/37 (92%)	33/37 (89%)	34/37 (92%)	37/37 (100%)	30/37 (81%)
Increase Pre-Mid	-18%	+10%	+2%	+14%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Increase Mid-Post	+20%	+8%	+5%	+2%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Increase Pre-Post	+2%	+18%	+7%	+16%	+4%	+30%	-13%

Please note there are discrepancies in the number of evaluation forms collected at each stage in the process

National Award Winning...



And the after party....



Measuring Success: What Worked?

- Aligned to Gatsby Benchmarks for schools/colleges
- Buy in from industry – supports their need for future workforce and social responsibility agenda
- University and HE embedded all the way through programme
- Accreditation for learners
- Evaluation shows positive attitudinal shifts

Gatsby Benchmarks

Benchmark	Guidance says...	We did...
2: Learning from Career and Labour Market Information	All learners should access and use information about career paths and the labour market to inform their own decisions on study options	Programme designed around need for graduate level engineers across the North and engineering career paths
4: Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers	Every learner should have had the opportunity to experience how their subjects help people gain entry to a wide range of occupations	Programme explored variety of routes to engineering including traditional degree, higher and degree level apprenticeships, etc.
5: Encounters with Employers and Employees	Each year, learners should participate in at least two meaningful encounters with an employer	NR and MM graduate engineers, NR and MM senior managers, employer visits
6: Experiences of Workplaces	Every learner should have had at least one experience of a workplace	Employer visits
7: Encounters with Further and Higher Education	Every learner should have had a meaningful encounter with a range of providers of learning and training that may form the next stage of their career	Visits to UoL and UCL, programme delivered by staff from Keele, Staffordshire, MMU, UCLan etc.

And Acknowledging Challenges

- Why is everyone doing it? NCOP vs. industry social responsibility vs. training/inspiring future workforce
- Graduate interns enthusiastic but didn't understand WP challenge or cohort
- Need clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Logistics challenges and communication – so many partners involved
- Funding: capital vs. in kind staff time – who pays for what?
- NCOP targeting – small cohort from specialised subject
- Hardest project we've ever worked on!

What Next?

- National project spread to other NCOPs
- No London residential due to logistics
- Regional finals with a National final for best teams in Birmingham at the National College for High Speed Rail
- 5-10 funded Internships for the 'shining stars'
- Accreditation through Crest

Lessons learnt

- Natural fit for the new Outreach Hub – clear match funding from NR and MM
- Relaxed targeting to a wider basket of WP measures e.g. Q1 & Q2, FSM, FinF
- Discussions with APP Access teams for sustainability
- Re-introduce London residential element?
- Working with employers worthwhile for us and young people – but be clear about who wants what from a project and communicate!



Thank you.

Any questions?

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