

Employability Statement 2017

Sparsholt College benefits from a high profile locally, regionally and nationally in the land-based industries, and has been recognised as a provider of high quality vocational education and training. The college has achieved Matrix Standard accreditation, the quality framework for organisations to assess and measure their information, advice and/or guidance services, which ultimately supports individuals in their choice of career, learning, work and life goals. The College maintains extensive links with employers.

Whilst at the college students are exposed to a range of related industries through visits, guest lectures and their work placements. They are encouraged, where relevant, to become student members of an appropriate professional body.

Employability skills are developed across the curriculum and specifically through the Work Placement, and Professional Industrial Development, units. Personal Development Planning is embedded in the programme and explored in personal and group tutorials.

The Work Placement units have been written to develop and build on the student's personal development portfolios and career management skills. This may, for example, be through seminars and tutorials to develop career decision-making strategies and strategies for self presentation at application stages and at interview. Employability skills linked to communication, leadership, numeracy and information technology are embedded across the curriculum.

Part and full time students are likely to be gaining employability skills through work-place learning opportunities and all students will directly benefit from the on-site physical resources at the College. On site facilities provide real-work environments where students can begin to develop their applied knowledge and understanding of theory and business skills. Additionally, courses provide frequent and regular access to industry sites to develop employability skills and industry networking opportunities.

Specialist units make use of realistic simulations and case studies associated with the real-work environments provided by both the facilities at the College and externally. Students are made aware of the importance of voluntary work and of extra-curricular activities to develop the skills needed by employers and the industry. Employers are involved in specialist units as guest speakers and, visits will relate directly to the requirements employers/and industry. All programmes offer the opportunity to participate in residential study tours within the UK and overseas, to broaden students experience and expose them to a range of career opportunities, that may not be immediately evident in the local area.

Job search and selection interview skills are developed as an integral part of the student's course. Access to careers resources and library is available on-site and at the University of Portsmouth.

Further details of support available is found at www.sparsholt.ac.uk