

**Title:**                   **Experiencing employability ourselves**

**Presenter:**           **Ruth Lawton**  
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### **Session Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Outline contemporary issues in relation to employability as an outcome of HE
- Discuss creative ways to engage academic staff with student employability
- Evidence where they are in relation to their own career management
- Critically reflect upon the importance of role modelling employability

### **Session Outline**

Key issues to be addressed are:

This workshop outlines a creative way to engage academic staff with student employability, by encouraging and supporting them to recognise, reflect on and articulate their own skills in career management and self presentation.

Employability as an outcome from HE is now a priority (Pegg et al 2012) and is expected from all disciplines (Reddy et al 2013). Many academic staff feel ill equipped and lack confidence in teaching and supporting aspects of career management (Lawton 2010), but increasingly findings suggest that the best model for impact on student employment is through their curriculum (Waldock 2011, UKCES 2008)

On the Embedding Employability in Academic Practice (EEAP) module of our M.ED Learning & Teaching in Higher Education the assessment includes a 'presentation of your professional self' to give staff the opportunity to experience employability and encourage them to engage with their own career management including the UKPSF and continuing professional and scholarly development

This workshop will include a discussion of current issues in employability, a brief outline of the EEAP module and an opportunity to undertake your own 'self presentation'.

### **Session Activities and Approximate Timings**

10 mins - a discussion of current issues in student employability and how we at Birmingham City University are seeking to address this by encouraging academic staff to engage with their own skills in career management and self presentation

20 mins – participants will construct and deliver a self presentation in the form of an elevator pitch.

15 mins – future ramifications of our approach for student employability and staff career management and professional development.

## References

Lawton, R. (2010) *Start with the staff: Embedding personal and professional development in higher education*. BCU LATHE: Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. 1 (1). Available from:

<http://portfolio.bcu.ac.uk/artefact/file/download.php?file=212826&view=32606>

Pegg, A; Waldock, J; Hendy-Isaac, S and Lawton, R (2012). *Pedagogy For Employability*. York, UK: Higher Education Academy

Reddy P, Lantz C, Hulme J (2013) *Employability in Psychology: a guide for departments* York UK: Higher Education Academy

UKCES (2008) UK Commission for Employment and Skills - Employability Skills Project. Review of Evidence on Best Practice in Teaching and Assessing Employability Skills. London UK

Available from: <http://www.ukces.org.uk/publications/employability-skills-project>

Waldock, J. (ed.) (2011) *Developing Graduate Skills in HE Mathematics Programmes – Case Studies of Successful Practice*. Birmingham: HEA Maths Stats and OR Network, National HE STEM Programme, p4. Available from: <https://maths.shu.ac.uk/NSS/skills2.php>