

Skills for Employability? No Need Thanks, We're Radiographers!

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Background

In the current economic climate, graduate healthcare professionals are facing increasing competition for jobs and where the baseline qualification is common to all applicants, the need to 'stand out from the crowd' becomes of particular significance

The dilemma for HEIs is to be able to embed the generic skills for employability into a curriculum that is already very full in ensuring that professional competencies are achieved.

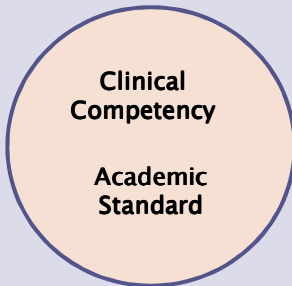
Method

The expectations and perceptions of employability of 65 final year UG Radiography students at Cardiff University were explored using the Turning Point™ pupil response system. Examples of various person specifications for a range of jobs were given to students to examine.



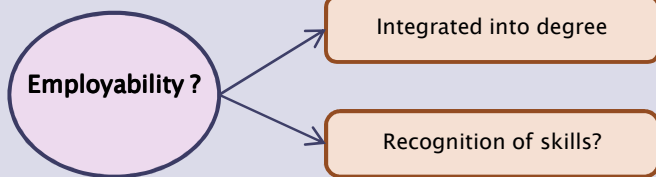
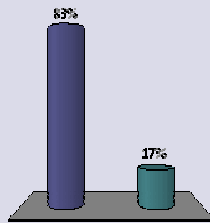
Results

Graduate Radiographer



'My degree will provide me with skills for employability within radiography'

1 = YES (n = 54)
2 = NO (n = 11)



Students (n=65) were given examples of person specifications and despite suggesting that skills for employability were integrated into their professional degree:

- only 50% (n=32) of students were able to correctly identify the skills and attributes required for band 5 radiographers
- 10% (n=7) chose the example of a stores manager as the job they would apply for on graduation.

Acknowledgements:

Cardiff University Graduate Employment & Enterprise Skills Strategy, 2010-15
Cardiff University Students' Union, Skills Development Unit
Pegg, A. et al. 2012. Pedagogy for employability. York: HEA

Conclusion

Employers require specific skills and attributes for employability within graduate radiographers which are over and above the necessary clinical competencies and academic standards. Despite students' perceptions to the contrary, these skills are not explicit within radiography degree programmes.

Cardiff University in collaboration with their Students' Union Skills Development Unit have moved to address these perceptions and are undertaking a pilot project to specifically embed development of the skills and attributes required for employability within an academic module.

Need to embed SAFETY

Skills & Attributes for Employability

