

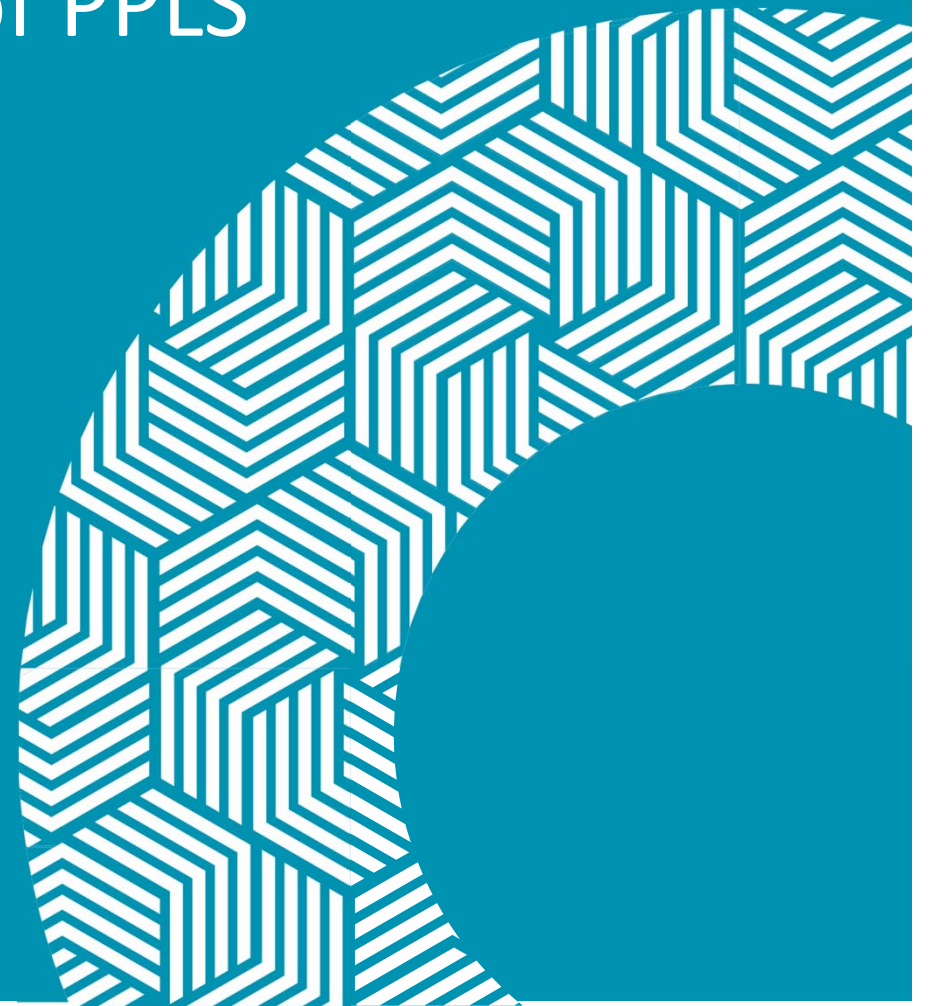


THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Careers Service

Supporting students to articulate the value of postgraduate study: Case study from the School of PPLS

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Inspiring futures



Session outline

- Background and rationale
- What we did
- Impact and successes
- Future potential
- Questions



Background

- Approached by Programme Director MSc Developmental Cognitive Science
- Specialist course: issues with students 'selling' their degree to employers and identifying relevant opportunities after graduation
- Issues with students understanding what they have to offer



Wider context

- Competitive job market generally
- Lack of distinct masters graduate job market in most cases
- Students often good at articulating subject knowledge and technical expertise developed through masters study
- Increasing numbers of PGT students > no competitive advantage?
- Evidence from employers that applicants are not clear about added value of PGT degree



What we did...

- Interactive workshop:
- Discussion on what students have done in their degree: range/diversity of activities, successes and challenges
- Discussion on skills developed: Thinking beyond technical and subject specific skills to wider transferable skills
- Generating specific examples of skills developed and how using STAR/CARL framework
- Competency questions and mock interview activities
- Analysing job descriptions/person specifications to see how degree could be relevant to a wide range of job roles
- Getting students to identify skills and their application rather than us telling them!



Impact and success

- Positive anecdotal feedback from students after sessions
- Evidence of strong engagement in sessions
- Positive feedback from academics in School
- Approached by academics for other programmes and for PGR students
- Developed similar session for PGR students – lab with students at different stages and looking at application of skills to non academic jobs
- Ran for final year UG students: Developing a sense of community and sharing learning across disciplines



Future potential

- Not just for PGT students: UG and PGR students can also benefit
- Scope to develop around specific aspects of students' degrees e.g. dissertation, research projects, lab work



Thank you!

Any questions?

