



PTAS Project Report (for REGULAR PROJECT GRANTS)

Project Title:

Project type (delete as appropriate) :

A Research Project (research focus on particular dimension of teaching, learning, assessment)

B Innovation Project (introduction and evaluation of an educational innovation, usually taking a practical approach)

Principal Investigator : Judy Hardy
Schools/department : Physics and Astronomy

Team members (including Schools and Departments) :

Kate Slaughter

Karon McBride

For further details, please contact: Judy Hardy j.hardy@ed.ac.uk

Project teams must submit a report within 4 months of the conclusion of their project.

Copies of dissemination material (eg journals/newsletter articles, conference papers, posters should be listed and attached (separate to the word count). The brief report will be published on the IAD web pages.

Report (maximum 1500 words)

The aim of this project was to develop an alumni mentoring scheme for undergraduate physics and astronomy students. Initially there were three main activities:

- developing an online 'sign up' system
- writing guideline to support the mentor-mentee relationship
- recruiting alumni to act as mentors

However, as the project progressed it became clear that much of our work was being superseded by the development of a University-wide alumni mentoring scheme by the University Careers Service. This was launched in 2014 as "Connect.ed". For the latter part of the project we therefore redirected our efforts to utilise Connect.ed; to recruit mentors from among our alumni; to promote the scheme to our current students; and to raise awareness more generally among our students of the importance of developing transferrable skills and broader "careers awareness". We used a variety of approaches including workshops, networking and drop-in sessions for students together with emails, newsletters etc. aimed at alumni.

Unfortunately, we were only partially successful in recruiting a critical mass of mentors from among our recent alumni and graduating students. As a result it proved rather difficult to attract current students to the scheme. However, it is clear from Connect.ed that such schemes offer a valuable resource for students and alumni. In addition, a University-wide scheme offers students access to a much larger 'database' of alumni. This is particularly relevant for our students, as there is a wide range of careers destinations for physics students.



- For information on Connect.ed, see <http://www.ed.ac.uk/careers/connected>

Examples of publicity material:

- Blog post <http://www.ph.ed.ac.uk/news/alumni-mentoring-supporting-our-current-students-26-01-15>

- Article in *ENQUIRE* (magazine for School of Physics and Astronomy alumni)
<http://www.ph.ed.ac.uk/news/new-school-alumni-magazine-01-10-14>



Financial statement (please delete as appropriate):

This project has utilised the funding awarded to it by the PTAS adjudication committee and the Principal Investigator or School Administrator appropriate can provide financial statements showing the funding usage as and when required by the UoE Development Trusts who may require it for auditing purposes.

Please send an electronic PDF copy of this report to:

Email: iad.teach@ed.ac.uk