



Student Transitions: Example of transitions practice

Title: Grow Careers Scotland

Transition(s) the practice supports: Transitions within HE and Transitions to Employment.

Abstract:

Grow is a UK wide initiative set up by a group of influential organisations within the horticulture industry to inform people about horticultural careers and the range of fantastic opportunities that the horticulture industry has to offer. The web portal is backed by a videos, posters and careers information leaflets including links to college courses and employment opportunities. Grow Careers Scotland is run by the Scottish Branch of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture with SRUC as the major partner. The event is unique in Scotland with over 100 attending the first year's event. Attendance over the last two years has been around 250 with the majority of attendees being SRUC students.

Description:

This year's event will be the 4th in Scotland and will be held on Wednesday the 18th of February. SRUC has played an integral role in hosting the Grow Careers Scotland event for the last 2 years at its Edinburgh campus at King's Buildings. As well as hosting the event, key staff and ex-students also play an important role in organising the event. Out of the seven members of the organising committee, three are employed by SRUC and an additional three are ex-students employed in the industry. Key speakers are often ex-students of SRUC. For example in the 2015 programme, ex-student Cameron Tasker will be talking about his experiences of being an apprentice at The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh while attending SRUC on a day release basis. Each speaker gives a short 10-15 minute presentation describing their own career developments. For current students of SRUC, this should provide inspiration from hearing successful industry practitioners describe their transition from student life to successful employment, plus the need to continue with lifelong learning. The main benefits to our students are:-

1. Listen to inspirational speakers from industry about their own experience within horticulture and landscaping. Speakers will specifically promote the wide diversity of the sector, and the employment and training opportunities it offers.



enhancement
themes

2. Meet and talk to industry representatives from a wide range of organisations. Ample time is allocated on the day to allow students to seek individual guidance on their possible career paths. This may also result in potential employment opportunities.
3. Meet and talk to college lecturers and tutors about future training and study options. For some attendees the event may be the starting point to study and a career in horticulture, landscape management or garden design. For others, existing students, the event highlights opportunities to the next stage in their career development.

The event is free to anyone who wishes to attend. All Scotland's colleges that deliver Horticulture and Landscape qualifications are contacted, and have attended previous events. For students within SRUC the event is timetabled and there is strong encouragement to attend. Career Advisers are notified and have attended, and we are also delighted to see any additional people who may be interested in a future career in horticulture.

Contact details:

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Grow Careers website - <http://www.growcareers.info/>

Also attached is Grow Careers Scotland Careers Day 2015 programme.



**GROW CAREERS
SRUC KING'S BUILDING CAMPUS, EDINBURGH
WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2015**

Programme

- 10.00 Arrive, Registration at SRUC Arcade
- 10.30 Swan Lecture Theatre, Talks
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Individual Discussion with Industry representatives
- 15.30 Depart

Speakers

Horticulture Sector	Speaker
Ornamental Plant Production	Mike Norris, Managing Director, New Place Nurseries
Landscaping	Stuart Dillett, Director, Land Engineering
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Robert Ross, CWGC
Landscaping/CIH Mentoring	Michael Thomson, Mr and Mrs Gardens
Retail Horticulture	Colin Barrie, Managing Director, Caulders Garden Centres
Horticulture Science	David Kenyon SASA
Horticulture Therapy	Kate Traherne, Trellis
Botanic Gardens + apprenticeship	Cameron Tasker, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
Historic and Botanic Gardens Bursary Scheme	Chris Smart

Other Confirmed Industry Representatives:

- Colin Wren, National Trust for Scotland
- Neil Cummings, Horticultural Trades Association
- Susan Russell, Professional Gardeners Guild
- Thomas Angel, Angel Landscapes
- Stan Green, Growforth Nursery
- Graham Rolph, The Garden Design Centre