

Examples of transition work at Queen Margaret University

Title: *Health and Social Care Academy*

Transition(s) the practice supports: Transition into higher education and employment

Abstract: The programme described here is part of the South East Scotland Academies Partnership. It is designed to provide high school students with transferable skills and experience of employment and higher education, with a view to smoothing the transition between school, college, university and employment; and supporting the development of Scotland's most important industries.

Description:

The South East Scotland Academies partnership was born out of a highly successful collaboration between Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh College and East Lothian Council which, in 2012, launched the East Lothian Hospitality and Tourism Academy. This has now been extended to offer programmes to more schools within East Lothian as well as three other local authorities in South East Scotland: Midlothian, City of Edinburgh and Scottish Borders.

The South East Scotland Academies Partnership is supported by a range of committed industry partners which provide academy students with an insight into the various industries. In some academies, industry partners also offer work placement opportunities providing young people with vital hands-on practical experience.

Over 50 schools in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Borders make time available in the timetable for two afternoons a week for Academy students to attend classes at Queen Margaret University, Borders College and Edinburgh College. Hence students are in the unique position of being at school, college, and university all at the same time.

Work experience is a fundamental part of the programme and gives students the opportunity to experience real-life learning and discover what working in health and social care really means. The primary partners for this part of the programme are the NHS and Social Care sectors. Students undertake a placement of the equivalent of one day a week over a five-week period.

Depending on whether students study in Edinburgh or the Borders, they have the option to study for either two or three years. For the Health and Social Care Academy, the qualifications on offer are SVQ units, or National 4 or 5 in Care leading to a Higher in Health and Social Care.

During 2013/2014, in its first year of delivery, 44 students participated in the Health and Social Care Academy. Of these students, 22 progressed to the second year of the programme; 3 went on to study at other universities in Scotland and 2 were accepted at QMU. Five students applied for a relevant courses at college and were accepted. Four students left school and secured employment in a related field (two secured employment in an unrelated field). The remaining students left school and have not responded to follow up and evaluation.

For 2014/15, there are 170 students, spread relatively evenly over the different routes.

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