

Mapping Course Content to Job Requirements

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1. Introduction

The theme being addressed in this case study is employability. The main aim of this study is to ensure that the course content is job-focused and meets employers' needs. In addition to job adverts supplied by the University Placement Team, other job adverts from top level companies have also been included in this study.

2. Practice/innovation detail

To ensure that the course content is job-focused and meets employers' needs, a study is being carried out to find the technical and non-technical skills being sought after by both local and national employers. This study used employers' job advertisements provided by the Placement Team and some top-level companies as a primary source.

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The skills from job advertisements have been mapped onto the course content and changes suggested to the course map if necessary. The results of this review will be made available to all staff and students. Students will benefit from this review both by the additional confidence they will be able to place in the course itself, and because they will have the opportunity to do better in job interviews.

3. Evaluation

No formal evaluation has been done. However, the report was discussed during the course meeting with students and informal feedback suggests that students have gained more confidence in the course as a result of this study.

4. Conclusions

Job adverts included GCHQ Software Cyber Engineers and Developers, Renishaw Plc Graduate Software Engineers, GE Capital Software Engineer, Google YouTube Software Engineer (Entry Level), UCAS Software Engineer, and adverts from Thomson Reuters, 7 Layer Solutions Limited, ABB Ltd, Gordon Associates (Cheltenham-based software house), and OpenGL.

We cover most of the skills sought in job adverts. However, we could do more in low level programming, using Linux and Unix Platform and Customer Relationship Management (CRM). Also, the brief description and indicative syllabus in the module descriptors should use terminology similar to that being used in job adverts.

At the end of this review process, the setting up of an industry panel will be explored. In addition, employers will be invited to sit on a Course Advisory Panel. Help will be sought from the Growth Hub to establish this important forum.

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5. Further information

Job adverts included in this case study from the following companies:

1. GCHQ Software Cyber Engineers and Developers
2. Renishaw Plc Graduate Software Engineers
<http://www.renishaw.com/en/graduate-software-engineer--18699>
3. GE Capital Cheltenham Software Engineer Job
<http://jobs.gecareers.com/job/Cheltenham-Software-Engineer-Job/66454100/>
4. Google YouTube Software Engineer (Entry Level)
<https://www.google.com/about/careers/search#!t=jo&jid=47077&>
5. Software Engineer UCAS
6. GE Early Career Programme: Information Technology Leadership Programme (ITLP), United Kingdom
<http://www.ge.com/careers/culture/university-students/information-technology-leadership-program/united-kingdom>

Job adverts supplied by the Placement Team:

7. Thomson Reuters
8. 7 Layer Solutions Limited
9. ABB Ltd
10. Gordon Associates (Cheltenham-based software house)
11. OpenGL

Module/Course/Department	School of Computing and Technology
Subject Area	BSc Computing
Level	All levels
Number of students	100
Academic Year (if appropriate)	2014/15
Date of case study	9 February 2015
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