

# Establishing links with the secondary and tertiary school and college sectors



## What is it?

The project aims to work towards the establishment of joined-up, complementary and mutually supportive employability agendas linking SHU language provision with the regional secondary school/college/specialist language college sectors.

The secondary and tertiary sectors are undergoing significant changes in the field of language learning. A large number of changes involve the re-orientation towards a more vocational and business-centred approach to the study of languages. Introduction of NVQs, proposed introduction of general diplomas, vocational French, etc. There are also some outstanding local initiatives such as the VIPs (Silverdale Language College) and KICS (King Edward VII Language College) projects, which make explicit links between the academic study of languages and the development of employability skills.

If successful transitions into HE are to be achieved there needs to be a mutual understanding, appreciation and ideally alignment of the approaches taken at secondary, tertiary and HE level.

## What is involved?

The first step for the project is the establishment of a network of stakeholders in the different educational sectors, followed by an exploration of the different academic and employability agendas and the attempt to align approaches where possible.

## Why is the project important to the CETL and the University?

Students choosing to study at SHU will bring with them certain expectations regarding their academic development and the further enhancement of their employability skills based on their experiences in the secondary/tertiary sectors. A smooth transition, facilitated by an understanding of what has gone before, will contribute to a continuous student experience.

## What do you hope the project will achieve?

It is hoped that the project will establish a viable network of stakeholders in the different sectors, who work together to achieve mutually supportive employability agendas.

An immediate practical outcome of the project will be the organisation of regular events with year 9 language students to raise awareness of employability issues relating to languages and business-related subjects.

## What impact do you hope the project will have?

The initial impact of the project will revolve around making contact and gaining an understanding of the different sector approaches. Future impacts will centre on alignment of employability agendas and the creation of "pathways" to study at SHU.

## Future Developments

It is hoped that joint practically-based or research-oriented projects will be identified.

## Contact details

**Gudrun Myers**

**0114 225 3827**

**[G.E.Myers@shu.ac.uk](mailto:G.E.Myers@shu.ac.uk)**