

PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT IN HUMAN FACTORS: A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH

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THE COURSE

L4 Psychology lecture series in Human Factors; 11 lectures; 100% exam based assessment

ELEMENT 1: Internship

- Competitive internship with Aberdeen-based Behavioural Consultancy company.
- Students submitted CV's, shortlisted students were interviewed.
- Successful student worked for one day a week with the company throughout term.

Aims:

- Promote awareness of post-graduate opportunities based on Human Factors
- To allow students experience of application and interview process in this area
- Encourage students to think beyond graduation in a concrete way
- Facilitate student understanding of how theories covered in lectures might be applied



ELEMENT 2: Mini-seminar series

- Series of three seminars given by professional Human Factors experts.
- Three areas covered:
 - Safety culture in industry
 - Non-technical skills on offshore oil rigs
 - Human Factors in the NHS
- Two of the speakers were Aberdeen graduates who had used their degree to pursue a career in this area.



Aims:

- Encourage networking with past graduates and Human Factors professionals
- Enable students to see how professionals use their Human Factors knowledge in a range of job roles and contexts
- Promote awareness of potential career paths

ELEMENT 3: Facebook



- Facebook group set-up for lectures
- Posted useful links, video clips, and other materials relevant to each lecture on a weekly basis
- Encouraged students to post questions
- Posted job and postgraduate study opportunities
- Posted revision questions and practice exam questions during revision week

Aims:

- To facilitate informal communication with, and between, students
- Encourage discussion of lecture topics to enhance understanding
- Enable students to provide feedback on course elements, and suggestions for topics going forward

THE OUTCOME:

High levels of student satisfaction: *'Human Factors was a very enjoyable course...the 'extra mile' in all things Human Factors gives me, the student, a lot of great knowledge to work from'*

Positive feedback: *'Possibly the most beneficial aspect of this course was the HF facebook page which answered questions and provided examples and useful articles'*

Enhanced career planning: *'Human Factors made up my mind about what line of work I want to go into; I have recently been given a conditional offer to Heriot Watt to do Human Factors next year'*

Internship: *'It was the best decision I could have made because I have gained valuable experience in an area I hope to go into after I graduate and have had fun whilst doing it. I never thought that I would have been given the opportunity in 4th year to be so involved and hands-on within a company.'*