

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Academic | Skills

Offer individual support and workshops with practical strategies applicable to all aspects of university study. These workshops are tailored to ensure that they are subject-relevant for the students involved.

Particular emphasis on the skills required to:

- Think critically
- Deliver effective oral presentations
- Provide proper citations
- Craft well-written essays and reports
- Prepare for and perform in examinations
- Manage research projects

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Personal Skills for Professional Development

Personal Skills for Professional Development

Offer a suite of workshops integrated into modules and tailored to enhance both academic and professional/employability performance and development. Individual workshop content and output adapts to suit module/assessment needs and highlight associated employability skills development.

Key underpinning themes are:

- Manage yourself
- Professional working
- Working with others
- Communication

Careers

Offer individual career guidance, career information resources, mock recruitment activities and integrated Career Management workshops. In liaison with the **Employer Relations Team**, run events with employers including fairs and networking events. Key workshop themes include:

- Understanding career options
- Developing career plans
- Making effective applications for part-time and voluntary work, placements and internships, graduate jobs and postgraduate study.

RESULTS, REFLECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Academic | Skills

Successes:

- Feedback from staff has been very positive and there is interest in integrated further sessions next year. Comments include: "I found the enthusiasm, and expertise of the staff running the sessions to be exceptional, and I very much valued the input." "Overall there was a positive impact of the Integrated Academic Skills on performance." "This cohort showed significant improvement in terms of the quality of scientific writing."
- Students have also given positive feedback on our workshops: "We got lots of great tools and strategies to improve our future writing." "Having everything broken down and explained was great." "Knowing specific details about what goes into each section of the writing was very useful" "It's comforting to know the advisers are there."

Challenges:

- Attendance can be poor when there is no direct incentive for students (e.g. linked to assignment)

Future Developments:

- Increasing number of interventions within Life Sciences for 13/14.
- Working with academic staff to tie workshops to specific assignments to increase attendance.
- Increasing promotion of integrated sessions through the use of Programme Moodle pages
- Using lecture announcements to encourage better attendance.

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Successes:

- All workshops are evaluated by students and feedback has been consistently good. Typical comments include: "[I will] use what we learned to solve issues, ask myself questions instead of saying I don't know" "I will think about other peoples strengths more, and how to be more accommodating" "I'm going to alter my plan to an extent and make sure I keep an eye out for mistakes I usually make"
- Feedback from and engagement with staff is also consistently positive, with a visible partnership approach in tailoring the sessions and the desired outcomes to both meet academic and assessment needs and improve students employability skills.

Challenges:

- Finding ways to engage students in both the academic and employability development benefits of the workshops and associated tools.

Future Developments:

- Supporting staff in implementing the Skills Passport project recommendations in a workable process.
- Making clear links between workshop content and output with module assessments: to encourage attendance, promote reflection and highlight individuals employability development alongside their academic development
- Promoting the key tools used within Confident Futures workshops to the wider School staff, thereby increasing the opportunities for them to be used in other contexts and embedding the concepts and their flexibility of application.

Careers

Successes:

- Feedback from students has been very positive. Comments include: "I have been avoiding searching for career information as I did not feel confident about applying after uni but the information included has changed this" "It has informed me of options I did not know were open to me and has provided a clearer understanding of what is required when applying for jobs in my field" "Before I had no idea what to do/where to go to look for info - SO helpful having someone go over stuff and tell you where to look." "It made me think about issues I had not previously thought of and has motivated me to research my options."
- Academic staff have requested more Careers input for next year. Some of which will be linked to assignments.
- Very good attendance at the Careers Information and Networking event and very positive feedback from both students and industry professionals.

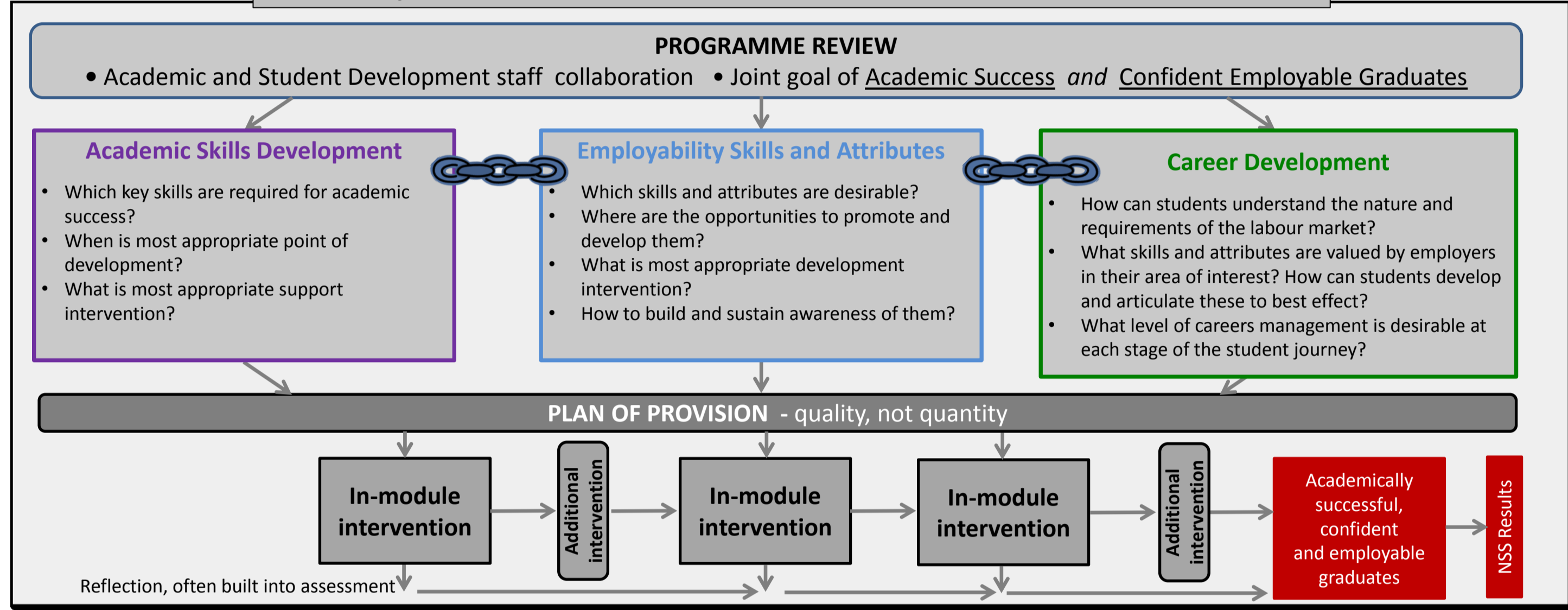
Challenges

- Attendance at optional workshops has been poor.

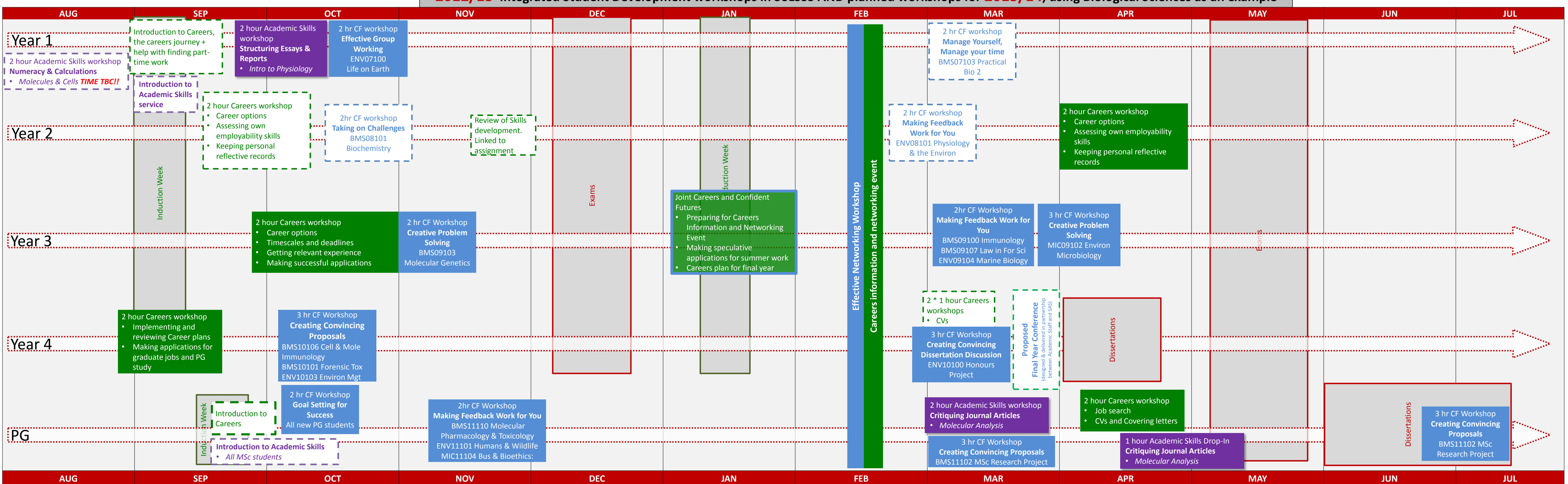
Future Developments

- Working with academic staff to help implement the Skills Passport.
- Establishing a communications channel with students and graduates through LinkedIn.
- Using lecture announcements to encourage better attendance.

ACADEMIC / STUDENT DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME REVIEW PROCESS



2012/13 Integrated Student Development workshops in SoLSSS AND planned workshops for 2013/14, using Biological Sciences as an example



Key: Solid box = run from 2012/13 Dashed box = additional proposed for 2013/14