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**University of
Sunderland**



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Employability from Computer Forensics Programmes

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Objectives

- Consider employability for computer forensics graduates in computer forensics and in other computing jobs
- Share case studies from graduates to indicate range of opportunities
- Discuss impact on curriculum

Why Consider Employability ?

- As we move towards Sept 2012 indications are that students and potential students will be much more focussed on employment opportunities
- Getting employability right will lead to a virtuous spiral with more students coming onto our programmes

Potential Issues to Consider

- Are students in a position to work in computer forensics environment ?
 - Curriculum coverage
 - Practical experience
- Security clearance
- Types of student jobs
 - Awareness
- “Different” expectations from employers
- Saturated job market

Other Employability Considerations

- Are there computer forensics jobs out there for graduates?
 - Large firms, SMEs, set up own company ?
- Does it matter
 - Pragmatically ?
 - Morally ?
- Are computer forensics employers ready for graduates ?
- Balance between education and experience
- Accreditation ??
- Are computer forensics students in a position to do other computing jobs ?

Student 1 – Forensic Job

- Starting applying in Autumn of previous year for the 'Milk Round'
- Working for Law Enforcement HTCU

Student 2 – Security Job

- Starting applying in Autumn of previous year for the ‘Milk Round’
- Working for Security Services
 - Should we even be sharing this information ??
 - Can we use in publicity ??

Student 3 – KTP Associate

- Graduate employed as associate for KTP
- Built on long standing relationship with employer

Student 4 – Further Study

- Applied in March for a funded place for further study
- Funded MSc

Student 5 – ‘Career Change’

- Applied in March for a funded place for further study
- Funded PGCE Place
- Now teaching
- Has asked about MSc study!

Student 6 – Widened the Search

- Didn't apply at the right time for anything but decided to go for a general computing job
- PC Support at a school

Top reasons not to get a job/further study

- Not applying at the right time
- Not widening the search to encompass all computing jobs
- Not widening the search to encompass all jobs requiring “graduateness”
- Not understanding the application/testing/interview process

What have we done about it?

- Employability and Careers Service sessions on applications/testing/interviews
- Good Links with PGCE guys at CCCU
- MSc at CCCU
- Recommendations for other postgraduate study (findamasters.com and findaphd.com)
- Let me know about your own postgraduate programmes! 😊

Summary

- There are issues particular to computer forensics in identifying employment opportunities
- Need to work closely with computer forensics employers to allow for graduate pathway
 - In understanding job requirements
 - Getting employers to engage in curriculum design / delivery