

NEWS RELEASE

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GraduateOn – an exciting new employability scheme only available in West Sussex

West Sussex graduates looking to kick start their professional career are being urged to join a brand new project aimed at helping them find valuable work experience with local businesses.

If you are an existing graduate or graduating this year you will be eligible to join GraduateOn a scheme run by University of Chichester working closely with local partners including Chichester College, Arun District Council, Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council.

GraduateOn is funded by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) through the Economic Challenge Fund and the package will provide support for 300 new graduates across 200 businesses, through intensive personal assessment, online coaching support, work placements, mentoring, a two day motivational course, networking opportunities, seminars and business support services. The scheme runs until September 2010.

The scheme is also actively recruiting businesses from the county to take part. So if you want to find out what a graduate can do for your company, if you have projects on the back burner and just can't find anyone to carry them out or you are looking to streamline your processes, improve efficiency and reduce costs, then get in touch and we will aim to match you with a graduate to work on short-term projects.

Dr Andy Dixon Head of the Research and Employer Engagement Office at the University of Chichester, said: "We are totally committed to helping graduates in West Sussex find work. GraduateOn will further strengthen the skills and employability of graduates in the county which we hope will improve graduate retention in the county. This will also contribute to sustainable higher-value economic recovery as well as assisting local businesses to secure the skills it needs to succeed during this challenging time."

Over 60 graduates have so far registered for the scheme and the first cohort of graduates have undertaken an intensive training session and been placed with West Sussex employers. Work placements are of 10-12 weeks duration and at a rate comparable to the national minimum wage or above.

If you are a graduate and live in West Sussex and want to be considered for work placements then please go to www.survey.bris.ac.uk/chichester/gowestsussex09 and fill in your contact details or contact c.allen@chi.ac.uk for more details.

If you are a business which would like to get involved then please contact Aaron Butson on Email: aaron.butson@chichester.ac.uk.

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Interviews are available with Pro Vice-Chancellor Sandra Jowett, please contact Samantha Philpott, PR Manager or 01243 812155 or email s.philpott@chi.ac.uk