



Dual Career Athlete Project Progress

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Workshops

Workshop 1 – April 2015

‘Issues facing Dual Career Athletes’

1. Where best to seek help? - **Sports Tutors now introduced, communication channels developed**
2. How do we gain access to sports facilities? - **Free access to training facilities**
3. How to combine training and studying?- **Meeting with Sports tutors to tailor timetable**

Workshops

Workshop 2 – November 2015

‘Support for Dual Career Athletes’

1. To welcome the new Dual Career Athletes to project
2. To highlight support offered to dual career athletes
3. To combat issues raised in previous workshop
4. To launch the new Athlete Support Package

Survey Pre Implementation

Key Findings

- Students want more support from lecturers
- Clashes in training and lectures is the most common factor
- Students consider themselves as athlete-students
- Increased technological support would be ideal
- **Dual Career athletes prioritise competing above University**
 - Being an athlete is short term, gaining a degree is seen long term

Implementation

Supporting 12 athletes

- promoting project increased number of athletes (twitter, newsletter, presentations to students, word of mouth)

Athletes are recognising the support increasingly

- Student athletes fully engaging in the project are being proactive ensuring maximum benefit
- Student athletes reporting reduction in stress relating to University work due to support offered through Sports Tutors

Implementation

Athletes are recognising the support increasingly

- Reporting improved communication between themselves and the University (through Sports Tutors)

Example: Ellie Barker

Physiological testing clashed with lectures, we conducted this testing on-site to suit and sent the results to the Coach.

Illustrating success of the Programme.



Summary

- Profile of the project is being raised at the University
- Dual Career Athletes are beginning to feel increasingly supported
- Seeing improvements from issues identified in Workshop 1 and Survey
- Lecturing staff are supportive of Dual Career Athletes

Considerations

- Improve use of Technology to support Dual Career Athletes - PANOPTO
- Continue to raise the profile of the project: Merchandise, Media
- Work to change the Dual Career Athletes perceptions of themselves as **athlete**-student's

Pedagogical and Legal Perspective

Limitations

- Clashes in training and lectures
- Academic personal tutors often did not understand demands of the Dual Career route
- Dual Career Athletes are across university - difficult to spread message about the Tutorship programme

Solutions

- Recorded lectures (PANOPTO)
- Podcasts (re-lecture slides/feedback)
- Sports Tutor bridging the gap between academics and Dual Career Athletes
- Raise profile further and encourage support of Dual Career Athletes across University

New Technologies

E-Newsletter

- To share our involvement in the project
- To share our progress in the project

Introducing PANOPTO

- Records lectures at the University saved on VLE
- Lecturing staff currently being trained in software

Currently developing Athlete's profile's

- Shared on social media
- To be displayed on notice boards around the University

Pre-Survey Test Data Advanced Findings

- Current lack of virtual tools
- Perceptions of the Dual Career Athletes
- Priorities are towards training and competing rather than studying
 - Only 2 Dual Career athletes attributed equal importance

Pre-Survey Test Data Advanced Findings

- Dual Career Athletes highlighted 3 areas of support available
 - Physiologist
 - Nutritionist
 - Psychologist
- Unsure how to access it (Addressed in Workshop 2)
- Family and coaches are the primary support aids
- Aim to ensure University staff are key supports

Implementation of the “Sports Tutorship” Programme

September 2015 now supporting 12 athletes through the project

Improved dissemination (twitter, newsletter, presentations to students, word of mouth)

Sports Tutors

- Since the implementation Sports Tutors have reported an increased understanding and willingness to assist athletes from University lecturers

Implementation of the “Sports Tutorship” Programme

Dual Career Athletes

- Reported a feeling of increased support from the University
- Communication channels opened between students and staff

Example: Alyssia Carr

Warm weather training camp in April 2016, Sports Tutor has assisted in rearranging a practical assessment to allow attendance of the training camp.