

AGCAS Skills Award TG Case Studies:
KING'S LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL SKILLS Award



The King's Leadership & Professional Skill Award (KLPSA) has been managed by King's Careers & Employability since September 2013. This Award programme is open to the entire student body. Before this, the Student Union coordinated the King's Leadership Award which was only available to those already in positions of responsibility/leadership within societies or sports club. The skills development sessions have always been delivered by our Careers Consultants.

KLPSA is administered by the Skills Award & E-Learning Officer, and directed by a Careers Consultant.

Students must complete an application form to be considered for a space on the programme, which runs from October - March. We run it through the first 2 terms to avoid overlapping with the revision/exam period. The application form consists of a supporting statement and a competency based exercise. Typical we receive more applications than spaces on the programme so we must be selective. We have 350 spaces on the programme per academic year.

Structure

To earn the KLPSA, award participants must complete several compulsory activities, of which some are assessed. In addition, there are additional activities students can take part in to earn extra points. Participants must complete the compulsory activities, pass the assessments required, and earn enough points.

Compulsory Activities:

Each compulsory activity has points assigned to it; this Points List is made available to all participants. Every KLPSA participant must:

- Attend 2 KLPSA assessed sessions and pass the assessments - one in the Autumn semester, one in the Spring semester. These sessions are 2-hour workshops co-delivered by Careers Consultants and employers, covering sought-after employability skills: Learning to Lead, Project Management, Communicating, Negotiating & Influencing, Identifying Strengths for Work, Networking & Building Relationships, Interview Techniques and Presenting & Pitching Skills. These are workshops exclusive for KLPSA participants.
- Complete 1 e-learning course (topics include CVs, Application Forms, Interviews, Finding Jobs/Internships and Commercial Awareness)
- Attend 3 Careers & Employability events throughout the programme duration (Oct – March)

- Complete a minimum of 30 hours of experiential learning (part-time work, volunteering or an internship) and write a reflective account of it.

Additional Activities:

To offer the flexibility to develop and learn skills of students' own interest, they can also gain recognition for additional activities or responsibilities. For example, they can earn points for:

- holding an extra-curricular/society/departmental position(s) of responsibility,
- other engagement in positions of responsibility at King's & activities at King's,
- demonstrating self-directed careers learning.

Evaluation and Impact

Participants must submit a written reflection for the hours of experiential learning, as well as competency based assessments associated with their chosen KLPSA assessed sessions – all written, except for Interview Techniques and Presenting & Pitching Skills which have practical assessments.

We run an annual survey for both completers and non-completers, to identify what went well and what we can improve upon.

Recognition

Those who have completed the KLPSA successfully will receive a certificate at an Awards Ceremony, followed by a drinks reception. This achievement will also be recorded on their HEAR, and is a boost to their CV.

Key Successes and Challenges

A key success of the Award programme is the level of interest and growth in numbers. A key piece of advice I would give to others setting up an Award is to ask students what they would like to see from the programme, and to ask for opinions from various stakeholders.

Future Developments

We intend to create more online learning materials over the next few years, and increase student retention figures. We are also introducing 'KLPSA lounges' – informal events for participants to meet us, ask any questions and discuss their progress.

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