

AGCAS Skills Award Case Studies:

THE BRUNEL+ AWARD

Background

This is the 2nd year running. The Programme was launched in the academic year 2016/17

Employers frequently tell us that they are looking for well-rounded applicants who can show additional skills and experience. By participating in the Brunel+ Award, students are able to show that they are more than their academic results which may will help them to stand out from the crowd when they enter the competitive graduate job market.

Structure

Students take part in Brunel+ accredited extra- curricular activities and then record the time they spend on non-academic activities to earn points. They then upload their CV and submit a short reflective piece to tell us how they have developed during the year to gain the Bronze+ Award. As students progress through university, they can continue on to Silver+ and ultimately Gold+.

The Brunel+ Award has 3 levels. For each level students need to accumulate points:

- Bronze+ - 500 points
- Silver+ - 1000 points
- Gold+ - 1500 points

And in order to attain an award there are two stages:

First Stage Students choose activities from a minimum of 3 out of the 4 categories:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 Campus+ | contributing to the Brunel community |
| 2 Global+ | showing an understanding of and appreciation for global cultures |
| 3 Professional+ | developing work related skills |
| 4 Wellbeing+ | maintaining health and wellbeing of self and others |

Second Stage Once students have the points accrued for each level; they must complete the following tasks:

- At Bronze+ Deliver a CV and a short reflective piece of writing
- At Silver+ Update their CV and short reflective piece to show their progression from the Bronze+ award and complete a (SONRU) video interview
- At Gold+ Update CV and short reflective piece to show their progression from the Silver+ award and attend an interview/presentation day

Recognition

Students achievements are recorded on their HEAR Transcripts and are rewarded at our Annual Awards Ceremony.

Size/Engagement

Open to all UG and Masters Students

At present, about 1250 students start the award each year.

At present, about 250 complete the award each year.

Reporting

Reporting is done via Award platform and Excel.

Resourcing

On the Award works: Simona Janssen, Skills Programmes Manager
Proportion of their time: 0.5 FTE

Evaluation and Impact

Effectiveness of the Award is evaluated via Online Survey.

Key Successes and Challenges

Successes and what has worked well:
Regular email and WhatsApp contact with students

Challenges:
Excessive admin

Future Developments (particularly for the next three years)

Adding more Brunel+ accredited activities and increasing student numbers.

Email contact: simona.janssen@brunel.ac.uk

Name of main contact: Simona Janssen

Website: <https://plus.brunel.ac.uk/>