

THE PORTSMOUTH AWARD: SURFACING SKILLS AND CONVEYING VALUE

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CONTEXT - ONGOING BARRIERS

- Progress made across the HE sector in embedding employability in the curriculum
- However, findings indicate students continue to find recognising and articulating skills challenging
- Confidence, language and relevance are recurring barriers
- Limited opportunities to engage in reflective practice (GFI, 2025)



PORTSMOUTH CONTEXT



- Our students are building a range of co- and extracurricular experience, e.g., part-time work, regular or one-off volunteering, involvement with student groups and societies, student leadership roles and short-term placements embedded in employability-focused modules
- However, we continue to see students in their final year who are struggling to both *surface and convey* the value of their experience

THE PORTSMOUTH AWARD

An online programme designed to help students reflect on the skills they develop through extracurricular activities, explore their career options, and increase their confidence and readiness to apply for future opportunities.

Increase students' confidence in presenting their value to employers, including greater clarity on the relevance of their work experience

Improve students' ability to carry out effective employer research and to use information critically to identify suitable opportunities

Enhance students' understanding of what graduate employers are looking for and be better prepared to navigate recruitment processes

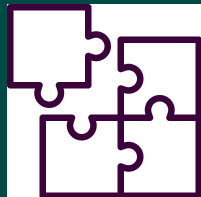
OVERVIEW OF AWARD ELEMENTS

ELEMENT 1 - OWN YOUR STORY



Accrue 40+ hours of co- or extra-curricular experience and record their activities to feed into a reflective account for Element 1, identifying further areas for development

ELEMENT 2 - FIND YOUR FIT



Engage in 10+ hours of career-focused activities, before providing a summary of their careers research to date and their proposed next steps. Students are asked to produce an action plan for Element 2

ELEMENT 3 - MAKE YOUR MARK



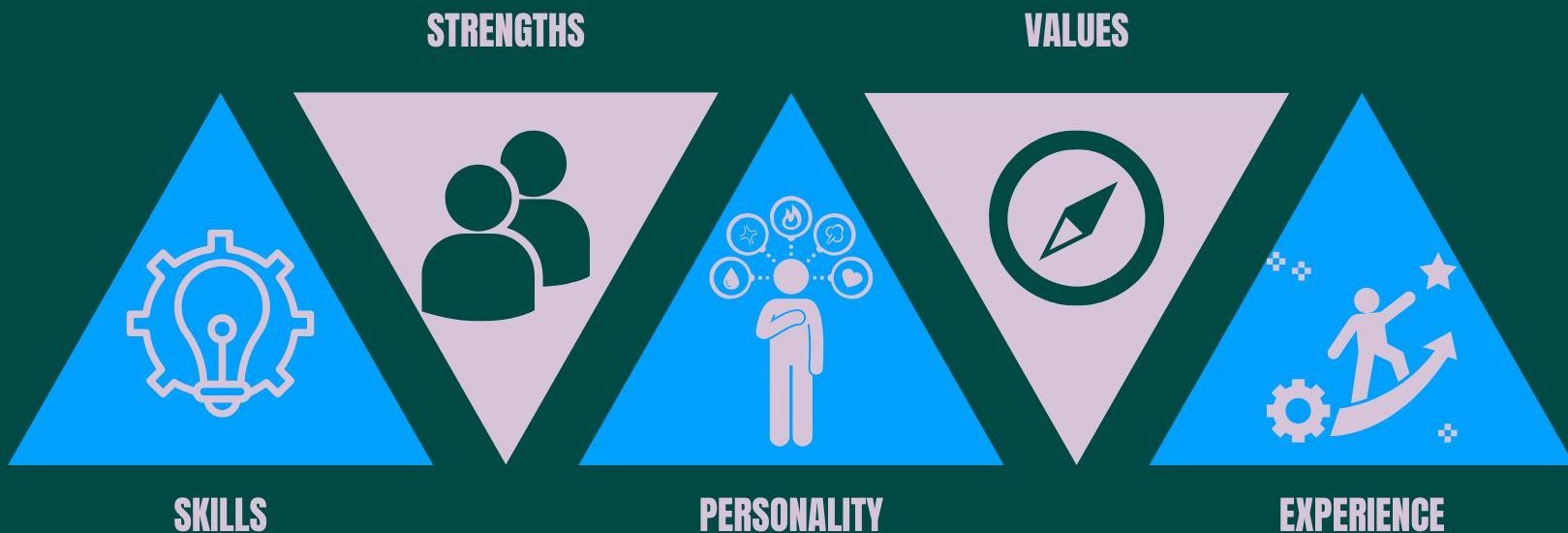
Take part in and reflect upon a recruitment-focused activity, before producing a recruitment portfolio, incorporating:

- A market-ready CV
- Two application responses
- A “Value Me” presentation

AWARD MOODLE SITE DEMO

[Play here...](#)

WHY SHOULD AN EMPLOYER VALUE ME?



Based on the Value Me Framework © Charlotte Harrison, University of Portsmouth 2022.

VALUE ME ACTIVITIES

Skills	Audit activity available through the C&E website to encourage students to develop examples and identify potential gaps
Strengths	Reflective evidence logs encourage students to identify their strengths, with a further reflective activity for Element 2 where students are asked to map their experience, including where they have demonstrated their self-identified strengths
Personality	Types Dynamics Indicator through Team Focus - encouraging students to discover how their preferences affect how they see the world and how they react and behave
Values	Values-based Indicator of Motivation through Team Focus - students can discover their underlying values and complete further reflection on how these will guide their career decision-making
Experience	Opportunity awareness is embedded across the Award elements with links to key resources, including MyCareer to source part-time work, regular volunteering and one-off volunteering

ROUTES TO THE PORTSMOUTH AWARD

Independent submissions, with a focus on extracurricular activities and support through Careers & Employability

Examples from 2025/2026:

- IBM Coaching Scheme
- Engagement with Course Reps
- Student Advice Team and Graduate Pulse Team

Faculty embedding, with a focus on experiential learning and outcomes embedded through module assessment

Examples from 2025/2026:

- Future Production Level 4 module - FMCT - Element 1
- Professional Development & Employability Level 5 module - PSHS - Element 1 + Element 2

FUTURE PLANS & OPPORTUNITIES



- Ongoing opportunity for students to engage independently with the programme
- Increased faculty embedding as outlined as part of the Employability Operational Plan
- “Refresh” of the Award Moodle site with more streamlined content and interactive elements, based on student feedback

GET INVOLVED...

- Enrol on the Award Moodle site as a staff member
- Share the opportunity with your students by directing them to the main webpage: port.ac.uk/tpa
- Further questions? Contact Clare Pitkin, Award Coordinator, email: clare.pitkin@port.ac.uk

