



SLN Newsletter 7

The seventh edition of the Sussex Learning Network's (SLN) regular newsletter provides an update on the development of all our online resources as well as news of forthcoming events and external news headlines.

SLN information, advice and guidance

Sussex routes is a new interactive tool to find out about special arrangements for learners in Sussex, called progression agreements. Progression agreements have been set up for some of the higher education courses at colleges and universities in Sussex. They can help learners get started, by guaranteeing them an interview, or sometimes an offer of a place on a course.

Launching 01 February 2008

Learning opportunities is the online resource with all the information learners and advisers need about vocational learning at higher education level in Sussex. Users can ask their own questions, read case studies, access a range of information, search for courses in Sussex and download a personalised action pack.

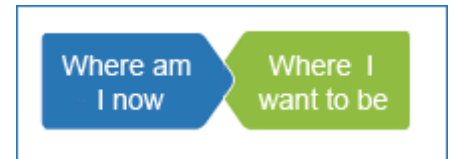
The **IAG Team** have held **18 events** across Sussex so far and many more are planned. Events included meeting with schools, colleges, business networks and unions etc. The SLN are also sponsoring the HE Fair at Brighton Racecourse on 22/23 April for pupils aged 16+ from local schools.

New leaflet - Foundation degrees in Sussex

Jointly produced by the SLN and Aimhigher Sussex this new leaflet outlines the opportunities for studying Foundation degrees in Sussex. It can be ordered for free from the [SLN Shop](#).

www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/learning

Sussex routes



Student Network Sussex - New articles

The Student Network is formed of a team of nine vocational students from a variety of colleges and universities in the Sussex area, who have come together to create an interactive website for the benefit of other vocational learners.



Two new articles have been recently been added:

What is she doing now?

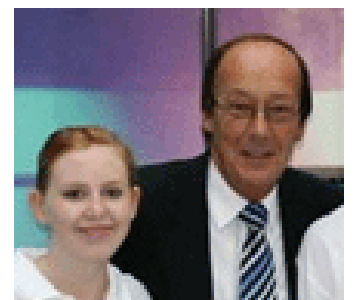
Find out about what Catherine Roberts winner of the Foundation Degree Learner of the Year 2007 is doing one year on.

Work placement experiences of vocational learners in Sussex

Find out about:

- Adam's chance to be a live presenter on Internet TV
- Ellen's work archiving historical building plans
- Claire's experience of working behind the scenes with ITV

For more information contact Rebecca Duffy (r.l.duffy@brighton.ac.uk).



www.studentnetworksussex.org.uk



bringing higher education within reach

Practitioner network

The practitioner network contains updates from our curriculum team, e-Learning project, progression agreements, developments in IAG and more!

The next twilight Foundation Degree seminar is to be held on the 14 February, and entitled "Foundation Degrees: Sussex's best kept secret?" We are also holding two more twilight Foundation degree seminars on the 13 March and 15 May.

This year's Foundation degree Symposium is to be held on the 18 April 2008. More information on this event to follow soon.



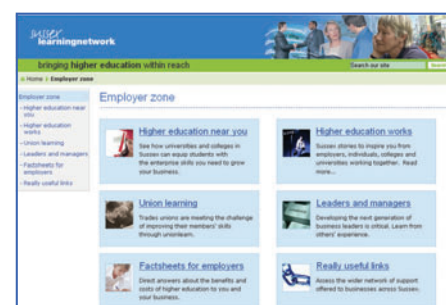
www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/practitioners

Employer zone

The recently launched Employer zone is packed with useful information about vocational higher education for employers, employees and businesses.

It includes fact sheets for employers

- Supporting learners at work
- Benefits to businesses
- Questions to ask about higher education
- What will the cost be?
- Supporting diversity



www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/employers

Research zone

The recently launched Research zone provides information about the broad range of research activity being undertaken by the SLN and its partners. This includes details of the 21 practitioner research projects funded by the SLN.

It also contains "Facts, Figures & Statistics" which includes recent additions on:

- The local economy, employment & labour market in Sussex
- A focus on Hastings & Rother
- A focus on the Gatwick Diamond



www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/research

FREE Shop

Use our online shop to order your free SLN products to support your institution or event. For more information contact Moira Monk (m.monk@brighton.ac.uk)

A **new addition** to the shop is our leaflet "Foundation degrees" jointly produced by the SLN and Aimhigher Sussex.



www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/shop



[SLN e-Learning Event — 13 February 2008](#)

Venue: Creativity Centre, University of Brighton

Time: 9:00 - 1400.

This event offers some 'hands-on' opportunities for interacting with a number of innovative learning technologies. Members of The Open University OpenLearn team will be available to introduce free online study materials and provide editing support. As always with our SLN events, you will be able to discuss and exchange ideas with other Sussex practitioners.



[Download the event flyer and find out how to book your place.](#)

News in brief

[UniStats Website Launched](#)

Unistats is the official website launched to help learners compare subjects at universities and colleges in the UK. It also provides data by institution and subject from the National Student Survey.

[New Diplomas welcomed, while A-level review postponed](#)

Organisations from across the education sector broadly welcomed the introduction of the 14-19 Diplomas and the government's postponement of the review of A-levels to 2013.

[Demand for shorter, taught courses rises](#)

'Demand for shorter, taught courses and more professionally-orientated postgraduate qualifications has risen', the Financial Times suggests, in an article examining the long-term decline in PhDs.

[Success of new Diplomas dependent on future of A Levels](#)

"The government has to be clearer about whether A Levels and GCSEs are to be included in the Diploma framework or whether they will be run parallel to it." (Oxford University)

[UVAC: Work Based Learning - Excellence in Practice](#)

UVAC have released a special edition of their newsletter, which focuses exclusively on the presentations, discussions and outcomes from the annual conference.

[Funding Boost for Higher Level Skills in the Workforce](#)

Government announces new funding, rising to at least £50 million a year by 2010-11, to support innovative ways for Higher Education to work with employers to meet their skills needs.