

# **SCEPTRe**

## **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CERTIFICATE**

*Learning to be: promoting deeper self-awareness and understanding of learning gained through rich experiences*

### **LEARNER AGREEMENT**

#### **September 2007 to January 2008**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Jessica Lo</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Bc Hons Applied Psychology and Sociology Level 3</b>
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<b>Experiential Learning Mentor</b>	<b>Professor Norman Jackson Director SCEPTRe</b>
<b>Relationship of mentor to learner</b>	<b>Work supervisor</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>August 11<sup>th</sup> 2008</b>

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#### **NATURE OF EXPERIENCE**

**An internship with the SCEPTRe.** Learning will be gained through unpaid employment that is indirectly relevant to disciplinary field of study.

#### **Aspects of the role include:**

- To be an active member of the SCEPTRe Team contributing particularly to the further development and evaluation of SCEPTRe's work with students.
- To liaise with and develop good working relationships with USSU.
- To act as champion and evaluator/developer for the [www.shareexperience](http://www.shareexperience) web site
- To contribute to SCEPTRe's programme of research & development aimed at engaging students and the university in appreciating the value of 'experiential learning' across students' whole lives – this will include Cultural Academy and Enterprise Academy
- To assist in the evaluation of the student story telling competition planned for December 2008 – January 2009
- To help develop digital story telling as a means of recording and evaluating experiential learning

- To manage and evaluate own learning and learning needs and take responsibility for own personal and professional development in consultation with SCEPTRe supervisor and other members of the SCEPTRe Team
- To be adaptive and flexible in order to respond to new priorities and opportunities as they emerge in the course of the job.

**Nb New areas of work will emerge and work plans will change during the year**

#### **Indicators of work**

- Development, discussion and review of work plans
- Project-based evaluation work
- On-line surveys
- Involvement in event-based activity as participant and also where appropriate presenter/facilitator

#### **Example skills developed, practiced and enhanced**

- Practical use of research methods developed in psychology course
- Developing new knowledge and skills to undertake the work
- Development of facilitation skills to be used in group work
- Negotiation and planning skills
- Networking
- Team working
- Communication (writing, conversation, reports, emails, video)
- Presentation skills (you will be expected to report results of work in meetings and conferences)

#### **RATIONALE FOR PARTICIPATION**

I want to participate in this project because I would like to use the skills I have learnt from my course and put into practice e.g. research methods. At the same time learn new skills which I could use in my final year. Also different ways of learning rather than the learning I have experienced whilst being at university. From this project I hope to gain a better understanding of life at Surrey as a student and other student's experiences at Surrey University.

#### **ANTICIPATED EXPERIENCES FOR LEARNING**

From this experience I hope to meet new people and improve my confidence in speaking in front of a group of people. I also hope through this experience I may see things or past experiences in a different light e.g. university life.

#### **MEANS OF RECORDING MY EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

- 1 At the start of the experience I will make a **concept map** showing her understandings of what 'learning through experience' means to her. The concept map will be provide an aid to reflection and learning, and be developed throughout the process as new insights are gained through the experience.
- 2 Throughout the process I will maintain a **reflective blog** describing the experiences and the understandings and insights she has gained in her employment role on the Our-Space social networking site. Professor Jackson will be given access to this space. The expectation is that through this medium and conversation I will identify the significant changes in her knowledge, understanding, skills, capabilities, attitudes, values and identity.

The blog does not have to be only text based – audio and video clips can be incorporated.

- 3 Towards the end of my experience (April 2009?) I will **create a story** that embodies the significant learning and personal development she has gained through the experience. Where appropriate, the story will be supported by testimonials from other participants or beneficiaries.

The headings for the story will be negotiated. Examples might include:

- *Motivations (Why you wanted to be involved in the experience)*
- *Aspirations (What you hoped to get out of the experience)*
- *Experience (The story of what you did and how you did it)*
- *Enquiry (The ways in which enquiry features in your work/learning)*
- *Creativity (the ways in which I have been creative)*
- *Change (The important things you learnt and why you are different as a result of your experience)*
- *Triggers (The key resources, trigger moments, people, and events that contributed to interesting and surprising learning?)*
- *Evaluation (Your overall appreciation and evaluation of the process and your own engagement with it, whether outcomes matched expectations, missed opportunities, the way you have changed your perceptions of what learning and knowing means)*

### **Validation of experiential learning**

My mentor will evaluate and validate my experiential learning story through the blog, a monthly progress review and through reading and discussing the story and concept maps.

### **This agreement is made between**

Jessica Lo .....

Norman Jackson .....

DATE.....