



## NEWS – July 2009

**W**elcome to the latest edition of UVAC News. In this edition we have revamped our newsletter format. Please let us know what you think.

Page | 1

### In this edition

UVAC 2009 Annual Conference	1
New UVAC Report	3
Forthcoming UVAC Report	4
UVAC Research – Call for examples	4
UVAC Journal Proposal – update	4
Progression Review for DBIS	4
UVAC Board Membership	5
UVAC Membership 2009/10	5
Contact UVAC	5

An update is provided on plans for our forthcoming 2009 annual conference, *Employer and Individual Demand for Higher Level Skills – The Role of Higher Education*, which is taking place in York on 5-6<sup>th</sup> November.

We report on UVAC activities since the last newsletter, including recent UVAC research reports and our current research projects on employer engagement and co-funding. An update is provided on the review of progression from vocational and applied qualifications to higher education being undertaken for David Lammy, MP, Minister

of State for HE, by UVAC's Chair, Professor Joy Carter.

We also outline progress made on our proposal to develop a new journal, *Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning - The journal of the University Vocational Awards Council*, with an established publisher. Finally, we provide details of new appointments to the UVAC Board.

### UVAC Annual Conference 2009

**Employer and Individual Demand for Higher Level Skills –  
The Role of Higher Education  
5-6<sup>th</sup> November, Royal York Hotel, York**

We are delighted that this year's conference will feature keynote addresses from David Lammy MP, Minister of State for Higher Education and John Hayes MP, Shadow Minister of State for Higher Education, who will both outline the policies of their respective parties on higher level vocational learning and skills. The conference should accordingly provide a unique opportunity for UVAC members to learn of the Labour and Conservative policy priorities on higher level skills, workforce development and higher education in the run-up



to the next General Election. An invitation to address the conference has also been provided to the Liberal Democrats.

Other confirmed speakers include:

- Professor Mike Campbell, Director of Research and Policy, UK Commission for Employment and Skills, who will focus on recession, recovery and the future skills needs of the UK economy 2010 and beyond
- David Sweeney, Director of Research, Innovation and Skills, HEFCE, who will speak on higher level work-based learning and employer funding
- Professor David Young, Academic Advisor, University of Derby Corporate, who will provide a review of innovation in higher level work based learning, qualifications and approaches to credit.

Page | 2

The conference will also include a plenary panel session on innovation and approaches to higher level skills and work-based learning in Scotland and Wales featuring:

- Professor Sue Scott, Pro Vice Chancellor – Learning Innovation, Glasgow Caledonian University, and
- Peter Treadwell, Dean of Academic Development, University of Wales Institute Cardiff.

Dr Peter Knight, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Central England, will provide the after-dinner speech and musical entertainment will be provided by 'The Strangers' covering a range of hits from the late 1950s and early 1960s.

An outline programme is available here – [www.uvac.ac.uk/0502.html](http://www.uvac.ac.uk/0502.html).

Click [here](#) for a booking form for the conference.

### ***Call for proposals to present papers in conference good practice presentation sessions***

We have received a record number of proposal submissions (over 60) for this year's good practice presentation sessions on the following topics:

- Selling HEI learning services to and recruiting employers and employees
- Defining and diagnosing employer/employee skills needs, and recognising and delivering provision
- Funding and employer co-funding of work-based provision



- Widening participation and developing work-based progression for Apprentices, work-based learners and those following 14-19 Diplomas
- Delivering what employers and learners want, and flexibility in delivery
- Innovation in curriculum design and flexible approaches to validation
- Partnership-working and innovation in Scotland and Wales.

Proposals will be reviewed in the next couple of weeks and all contributors will be notified of outcomes.

### ***Work-based Learning Futures III and UVAC Conference Proceedings 2008***

The conference will see the launch of two new UVAC publications, *Work-based Learning Futures III*, a collection of papers on key topics in work-based learning presented at the Work-based Learning Futures Conference held in Derby in April 2009, and the proceedings of UVAC's 2008 Annual Conference.

### ***Sponsorship***

## **CAPITA**

We are delighted that our conference will again be sponsored by Capita. Other sponsorship opportunities are still available, with prices starting from £325. Please visit [www.uvac.ac.uk/0502.html](http://www.uvac.ac.uk/0502.html) for more information.

### ***Exhibitor packages***

Some exhibitor packages are still available, priced at £550. More details at [www.uvac.ac.uk/0502.html](http://www.uvac.ac.uk/0502.html).

### ***New UVAC Report***

A new report, *Overview of overseas universities providing validation and accreditation services to large businesses*, is now available. UVAC members can obtain a copy of this recent report, produced with the support of HE@Work, from the UVAC website at [www.uvac.ac.uk/0402.html](http://www.uvac.ac.uk/0402.html). The report provides an overview of overseas universities engaged in providing validation and accreditation services for employer-developed, higher-level learning programmes. The report focuses primarily on the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and South Africa.



### **Forthcoming UVAC Report**

Titled *Funding higher-level work-based learning*, this report, again produced with the support of HE@Work, outlines the existing funding environment for higher-level work based learning in England. The report includes coverage of part-time provision, the impact of ELQ, targeted allocations, co-funding and employer engagement and funding of HE in FE. We aim to make this report available via our website soon. To be notified when this report is available please contact Karen Jones on [k.jones@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:k.jones@bolton.ac.uk)

Page | 4

### **UVAC Research on Employer Engagement and Development of Co-funded HE provision – Call for examples**

UVAC is currently undertaking a call for examples for research focused on *Innovative and successful approaches to engaging employers* and *The development and delivery of co-funded HE provision*. We aim to circulate both these reports to UVAC members in the autumn. Further information on this research and how to contribute case studies can be obtained from [www.uvac.ac.uk/index.html](http://www.uvac.ac.uk/index.html)

### **Journal Proposal: *Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning* - The journal of the University Vocational Awards Council**

We have received widespread support and interest in our proposal to develop an academic journal focused on higher education, skills and work-based learning. Following a review with our potential publisher partner we hope to update members on progress and our future plans in late September. We would like to offer our thanks to those who have expressed interest in serving on the journal's editorial advisory board.

### **Progression from vocational and applied learning to higher education - a review for HE Minister David Lammy MP**

In April 2009 UVAC's Chair Professor Joy Carter was asked by Higher Education Minister David Lammy MP to undertake a study to feed into the Government's HE Strategy, focusing on an analysis and accompanying recommendations on supporting progression in England for vocational and applied learners to higher education. In response to a call for examples of good practice and the barriers hindering vocational progression, over 40 responses were received from UVAC members. A preliminary report has now been produced and submitted to DBIS. This report, which reviews the current landscape of vocational and applied learner progression to HE, aims in particular to support the Government's ambitions to raise skills levels and social mobility through its forthcoming new strategy for higher education. Future stages of this review will involve the analysis and, as appropriate, dissemination of good



practice. We are also exploring how the research conducted could be complemented by related studies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We plan to circulate our interim report to UVAC members as soon as we have received a formal response from DBIS and aim to publish our final report in October.

### **UVAC Board Membership**

We are pleased to announce the following appointments to the UVAC Board:

- Professor Margaret House, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Middlesex University
- Mr Peter Treadwell, Dean of Academic Development, University of Wales Institute Cardiff
- Professor David Green, Vice Chancellor, University of Worcester
- Professor Sue Scott, Pro Vice Chancellor- Learning Innovation, Glasgow Caledonian University
- Ms Jackie Dunne, Director of Lifelong Learning, University of Leicester.

These individuals bring to the Board a wealth of expertise and experience in vocational higher education and will support UVAC in developing its role as an organisation covering the countries and regions of the UK. Photos and pen pictures of all Board members are available at [www.uvac.ac.uk/0102.html](http://www.uvac.ac.uk/0102.html)

### **UVAC Membership 2009/10**

For 2009/10 we are maintaining membership fees at 2008/09 rates, in recognition of the financial pressures facing our members. We will be writing to existing member contacts shortly, inviting you to renew your membership subscription. Click [here](#) for more information about UVAC membership.

### **Contact UVAC:**

If you'd like to:

- comment on anything in this newsletter or provide feedback
- raise a query about UVAC membership or UVAC projects
- submit an article for inclusion in a future newsletter

...email Caroline McKeivitt on [c.j.mckevitt@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.mckevitt@bolton.ac.uk)



If you'd like to:

- unsubscribe from this newsletter
- add a colleague to our newsletter mailing list

...email Karen Jones on [k.jones@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:k.jones@bolton.ac.uk)