

Student-staff partnership case study

Case study title: Sonic Herts, annual music festival

School: Creative Arts

Who was in the partnership?

Dr Roberto Filoseta and a number of students across levels, both UG and PG.

What was the purpose?

Empowering students, fostering a sense of ownership towards the festival; develop organisational skills and technical skills related to their course of study, team building, problem solving, professionalism, etc.

How long did it last? Is it ongoing?

The project is ongoing, as the festival is a regular yearly feature of the academic cycle (first 2 weeks in May). A call for technical staff and performing artists is put out in December/January, and from then on a series of ad-hoc meetings are scheduled to discuss roles and actions. By the time the festival finally starts in early May, all members of the team must be able to perform their role with a minimum of supervision.

What was done/what happened?

The appointed team of students is engaged in many and varied roles, e.g.:

- venue and stage set up
- audio equipment set up and live audio management, including recording events
- at the door, scanning audience's ID cards against online booking lists
- engage in their own musical performance
- students on the Music Industry Management course devise promotional activities

What were the benefits?

Through their engagement in the festival, students have an opportunity to apply to a real-world situation the specific skills taught on their course of studies, while working as part of a team, in a supportive environment, and in partnership with tutors and technical staff. They learn about the pressure and responsibility of organising and delivering a show to an audience within a tight schedule and to a professional standard, troubleshooting technical problems if necessary. This is akin to a work experience, and contributes to enhancing the student employability.



What were the challenges?

Ensuring cohesion among an ad-hoc team formed by students from different cohorts (different awards and different levels), often meeting each other for the first time; ensuring all are happy with their role, and capable of performing as expected. This is managed by regular meetings, often followed by social gathering in the EleHouse for team-building.

Further information/contact details

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