



Making the Most of Masters

Making the Most of Masters: An innovative approach to employer engagement in Higher Education Institutes in Scotland

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Context

- Scottish Funding Council 'Learning to Work 2'

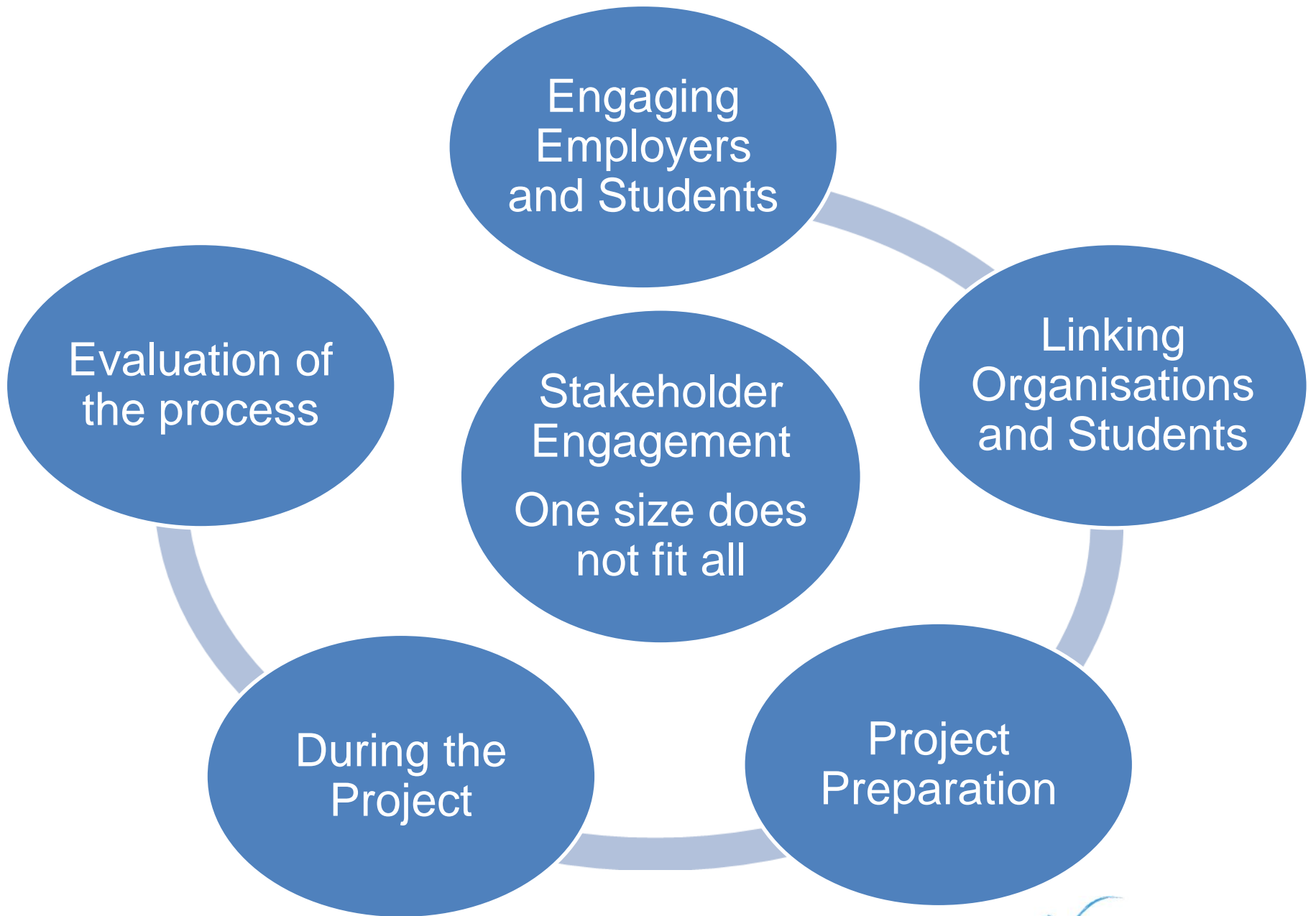


Making the Most of Masters (MMM)

- Explore work based projects (WBPs) as alternative to University-based Masters dissertation
- December 2010 – July 2014
- £778,860 funding plus institutional in-kind support
 - Staff, marketing, events, website development, wider dissemination, dissertation support costs
- From August 2014 Institutions support own costs

MMM Objectives

- Enhance employability of Masters students
 - Develop links with employers in key economic sectors
- Develop resources and processes to support all stakeholders
- Create WBP opportunities ensuring academic quality and benefit for organisation
- Evaluation of process with all stakeholders
- Sustainably embed WBPs in Masters provision

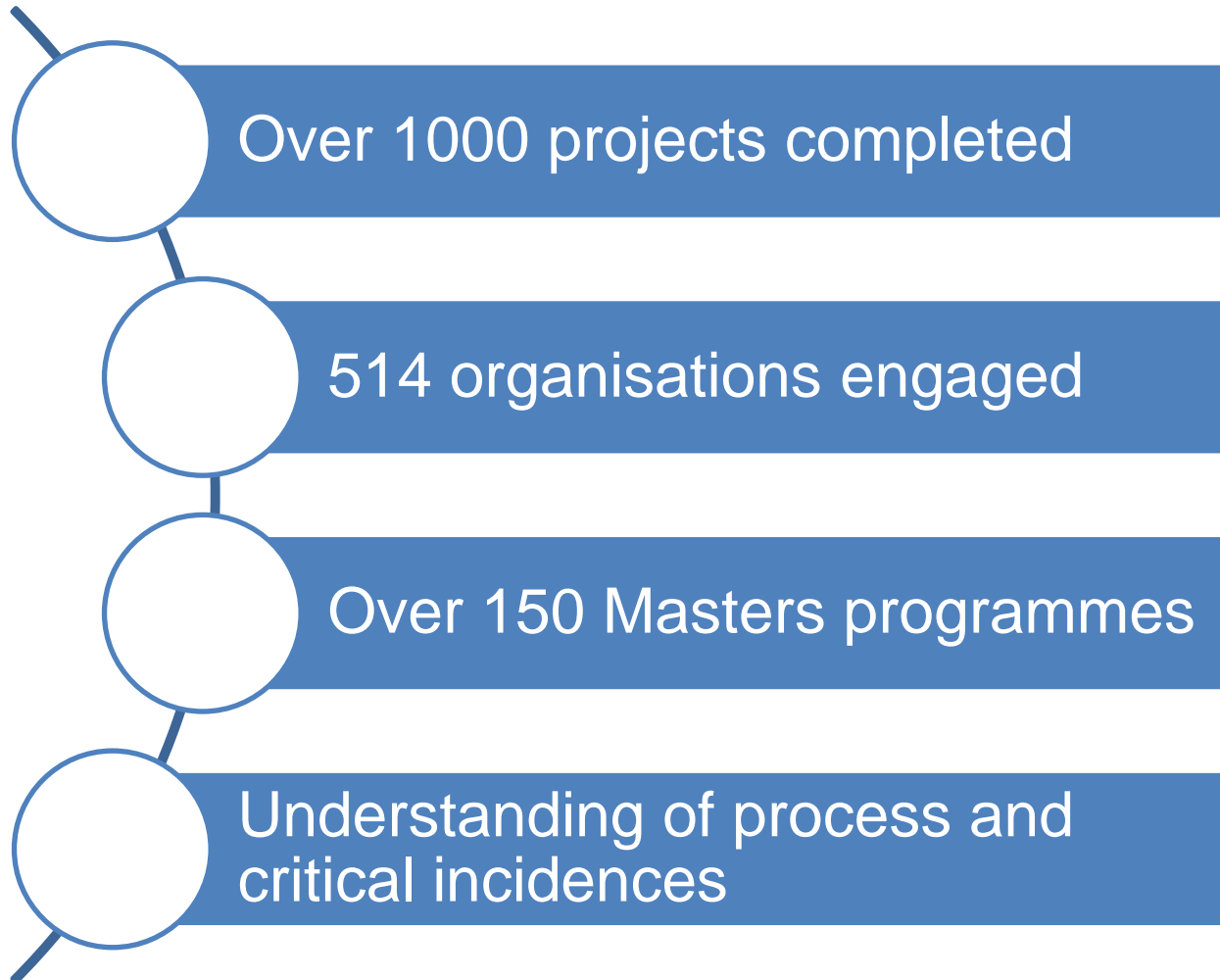


The MMM Toolkit

- Addresses University Quality Assurance requirements
- Disseminated to every HEI in Scotland
- Adapted for Doctoral Training Partnership Scheme
- Adapted for undergraduate course and modules



Outcomes





Impact

- Increased awareness of WBP's
 - More programmes engaging, more organisations engaging
- Contribution to knowledge
- Changes to policy and practice
 - Project agreement and other documentation
- MMM Legacy project

2013
THE AWARDS
AWARD WINNER
OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER
ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Wider impact of embedding WBP's

- “*considerable gains for students, employers and institutions*” (Rocket Science UK, 2014)
- Economics benefits to the Scottish economy
- Host organisation use WBPs as a recruitment tool
 - Students choose programmes which offer WBP's
- Deeper links with external organisations
 - Throughout the three universities

Keys to Success

- Working in true collaboration
 - Flexible, adaptable and supporting approach
- Willing academic staff
- Reducing the fear factor of students
- Setting Stakeholder Expectations
 - Transparent process and procedures
- Sustainability and legitimacy planned from outset

Summary

- Work-based research embedded into masters programmes
- Collaborative working with adaptability was key
- 2015 MMM Legacy Project
- See: www.mastersprojects.ac.uk

