

Introducing the MAPS+ Bursary

from JCA (Occupational Psychologists) Ltd



The bursary scheme has had great success since its launch in 2007. It recognises the achievement of the many young people and adults who have now used our maps+ programme in furthering their personal development or career goals. The Bursary came about as a means of celebrating the great news stories that filtered through from advisers we had trained in maps+. We felt that there needed to be a forum for this celebration of client success and of course the fantastic skills and support of advisers.

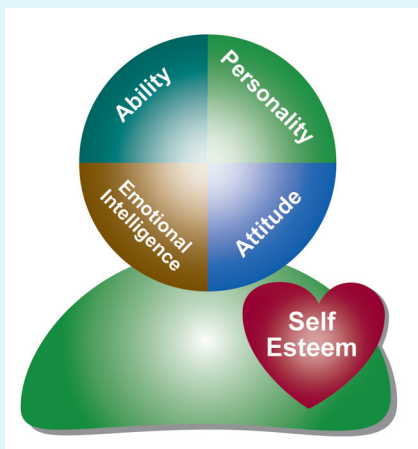
2009 saw the scheme again joining with the Institute of Career Guidance, the prizes to be awarded at the National Career Awards ceremony during their annual conference which for 2009 was held in Blackpool. The bursary offers two prizes of £750 to individuals who best demonstrate that they have achieved significant personal development through guidance activities involving maps+. All other nominees who apply receive vouchers as recognition of their time and effort in applying.

The bursary can be used for any personal development related expenses. Recent winners have used it to pay to learn to drive (and access more job opportunities), another to further their qualifications to become a counsellor, and another winner used it to develop her fitness and wellbeing. All expenses associated with the delegate and their adviser attending the award presentation are met by JCA Occupational Psychologists.

The partnership between the ICG, CareersINFO and JCA

The Institute of Career Guidance annual conference is an excellent home for the ceremony and complements the National Career Awards presented to those who are promoting quality developments in the guidance industry. An independent panel to judge the bursary applications is also provided by the ICG. Judging criteria include the power of the story in demonstrating significant personal change; the impact of maps+; how the money would be used to support their career and personal development; and the support from an Adviser/ Case Worker/Trainer/Teacher supporting the submission.

As the bursary has continued to grow and develop we are now looking to make these stories of personal change and development more widely known, so that hopefully they will act as an inspiration to



those facing difficult times and choices in their lives. Also, we believe it serves to recognise the valuable work of those who are supporting clients in their transitions.

Of course we also hope that the moving stories reinforce the value of the maps+ products and methods in the adviser's 'toolkit'.

To tell these stories JCA has been working with CareersINFO, a media company with strong links to the ICG.

Over the last 4 years, CareersINFO have become the UK's leading labour market media producers – working with all stakeholders in the IAG marketplace, from the National Careers Service (CAS) and the National Employer Service (NES) to the UK's largest employers and training providers.

Because of their broad expertise (from high production value corporate media to some very sensitive SEN material), CareersINFO were chosen to bring experience and understanding to our media project.

In 2009 CareersINFO were commissioned to create a film about the bursary which was shown at the 2009 annual awards ceremony. They went to Northern Ireland to interview two of the bursary winners and those supporting them. This brings alive their powerful stories of transition and how advisers and clients work together in facing and overcoming challenges.

Congratulating the winners

Lorna and Nicholas, as with previous winners, are excellent ambassadors for the potential of people to transform their lives, with the assistance of excellent advisers equipped with the right tools and methods such as maps+. Their presence to receive their awards at the ICG annual conference is testimony to this and we at JCA thank them and wish them a fulfilling future.

We also hope that the bursary continues to flourish along with the alliance with the Institute of Career Guidance and CareersINFO.

Bill Davies

Senior Consultant

JCA (Occupational Psychologists) Ltd.

2009 Winners:

Lorna Dixon

Nicholas Baker

