



Developing Entrepreneurial Graduates Project **- an imperative for the knowledge economy**

UK business recognises that continuous innovation has to lie at the heart of our economic future. This requires an increase in the pace of innovation and an increase in the number of businesses that are high value-adding, driven by innovation and packed full of dynamic entrepreneurially-minded people, more than often university graduates. Our businesses are looking for more enterprising and entrepreneurial graduates who will question their way of doing business, will transform their organisations and have a global outlook.

With NESTA and the NCGE we have convened a **global panel of experts** in entrepreneurship education to explore the challenges facing universities as they develop cross-campus initiatives to embed and offer an experience of entrepreneurship education to their students and engage academic faculty.

What do we know so far?

UK universities are increasingly teaching entrepreneurship and building enterprise skills and capabilities in their students. But more has to happen. The latest data from the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) shows:

- rates of student engagement has grown – it is now 11% but still much too low;
- business schools dominate provision – 61% of all delivery, followed by engineering (9%), creative (8%) and health (1%) – there has to be wider ownership across universities;
- more than 80% of funding for extra-curricula activity is from the public purse, with strong reliance on short term funding – this means initiatives are inherently fragile;
- fewer than 50% of universities display the range of entrepreneurial characteristics that they have suggested is needed to radically transform the culture of higher education.

Project objectives

This project aims to develop a pilot specification of requirements for universities to use in encouraging the development of more entrepreneurial and enterprising graduates at UK universities. The outputs for the project will include:

1. a specification of requirements for universities to use in implementing a campus-wide strategy to developing more enterprising and s entrepreneurial graduates and postgraduates;
2. a summary note for key stakeholders to secure their commitment to supporting this agenda;
3. a report to address issues such as: the fragility of funding, the need to engage staff and students across different subject disciplines, supporting entrepreneurship educators, innovative teaching methods that value the practice of entrepreneurial skills and behaviours.

With NESTA and the NCGE we hope to run a number of *pilots at selected universities* to test the model. A number of CIHE member companies, including Anglo American, Accenture, Oracle, Pfizer, PwC and others have expressed their willingness to work with us to test if the graduates who leave these pilots are more enterprising, innovative and entrepreneurial people.

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