
Enterprising and Entrepreneurship in Higher Education A private sector perspective

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Keywords

Higher education, entrepreneurship education, private education, enterprising economy

Abstract

Enterprising and Entrepreneurship education has gained momentum due to the changing dynamics of the global economy, driven by the labour market demand of graduates equipped with employability skills and the governmental support to foster enterprising culture to regenerate economic growth. The Oslo Agenda for Entrepreneurship Education in Europe in 2006 calls for better integration across subject areas, improved practice-based pedagogical tools, and better approaches to teamwork, whether internal or external (through collaboration with industry and business). Enterprise and entrepreneurship education can provide highly engaging learning opportunities, particularly when related to the programme of study chosen by the student; developing enterprising abilities can enrich both students' educational experience and their career prospects, especially within micro and small enterprises. (QAA, 2012). There has been numerous initiatives introduced by the UK government to encourage a more enterprising spirit amongst the population and to articulate the need for the development of skills for employment. Where policies have been imposed, universities have responded by making interventions in their curricula but the agenda of enterprising and entrepreneurship has not been fully embraced by the private sector higher education institutions.

There are enormous opportunities available for the Private sector higher education institutions to integrate enterprising and entrepreneurship by restructuring its offering to learners, building capacity for entrepreneurship in students, staff and the community alike. By offering various courses relevant to the enterprising and entrepreneurship, introduce the flexibility in the choice of modules, integrating work placements, organising industry visits, inviting guest speakers from the industry and to engage students in work-related projects could develop the sense of commercial reality among students and they would acquire employment relevant and transferable personal skills. By embracing the enterprising and entrepreneurship agenda, private sector provided could build their image, as being part of the true commercial driver of the enterprising economy.
