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Add a bit of honey to enhance enterprise and employability

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Higher Education
Academy

HEA Annual Conference 2017: Generation TEF: Teaching in the spotlight

4-6 July 2017

Title of session

Add a bit of honey to enhance enterprise and employability

Abstract

A case-study is presented which uses an innovative platform to promote the development of entrepreneurial activity between engineering, design and business students. The platform is situated outside the curriculum and provides the opportunity for students with no formal engagement to form interdisciplinary teams to co-construct knowledge (knowledge building), share ideas (knowledge exchange) and build networks (knowledge communities). "Honeypot" brings together students, who value innovative-thinking and ideas generation as part of their UG experience. The presentation highlights the success and challenges of designing and implementing this platform for innovation and its subsequent impact on learning.

Outline

The presentation will take the form of a Pecha Kucha (images only) to showcase the honeypot project. 20 slides will be presented in 20 mins to highlight the success and challenges of designing and implementing this platform for innovation and its subsequent impact on learning, the development of employability skills and the student experience. After the presentation the ideas presented will be open for debate and discussion with the audience.

The networking-platform is formed on the principles: increase capacity, research engagement, entrepreneurship, knowledge, understanding, employability and impact on learning (JISC, 2009). The platform is situated outside the curriculum and provides the opportunity for undergraduate programmes with no formal engagement to form interdisciplinary teams to co-construct knowledge (knowledge building), share ideas (knowledge exchange) and build networks (knowledge communities). "Honeypot" brings together students, who value innovative-thinking and ideas generation as part of their UG experience. It builds on the notion of a 'trap' in which all forms of ideas can be brought together, dismissed or debated in both a physical and on-line environment.

Keywords

Interdisciplinarity, employability, partners in learning, co-creation of knowledge, flexible learning, networking, industry challenges, peer support, enterprise.

Key messages

- The importance of providing an environment to ensure graduates have developed the necessary skill set to progress to highly skilled employment and further study (TEF).
- The value of embedding interdisciplinary into the Higher Education student learning experience, as a mechanism for increasing employability skills and developing a lifelong network.
- A sustainable model to network students from different disciplines through a creative exchange to provide solutions to wicked problems.
- Practical solutions for the implementation of interdisciplinarity within the HE student experience to enhance learning will be shared.