

Workshop Report

Embedding Employability Skills and Entrepreneurship into Curriculum

National Education Employer Dialogue (NEED1) Workshop

Internationalisation Higher Education Project

Report Creator	Abeer Ahmad ,Project Officer, British Council
Email	Abeer.ahmad@britishcouncil.org.jo

Workshop Partner	Luminous Education – Amman, Jordan
Delivery Partner	Plymouth University- United Kingdom
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Background: In focusing on the Graduate Enterprise Services dimension of the entrepreneurial university model (Al-Dajani et al, 2014) in Jordan, the Core Group HEI partners of the British Council (Jordan) sponsored ***Jordanian Entrepreneurial University Programme*** identified these burgeoning services in Jordan’s universities, alongside the need for academic and professional services staff capacity building, to enhance the impact and effectiveness of these services. As such, the Core Group designed the **National Education Employer Dialogue (NEED)** series during their meeting in December 2016 in Amman to focus on this priority.

The first capacity building workshop was held on 27&28 March 2017, for higher education academics and professional services staff focusing on ‘embedding employability in higher education’.

Attendees: Day1: 33 participants, (21% employers) and (79% Academics)
Day2: 15 participants, (100%Academics)

Day 1: started with welcome speech by May Abuhamdia, Deputy Director at British Council and followed by interactive presentation delivered by Professor Nikolaos Tzokas, Executive Dean, Faculty of Business, Plymouth University, and discussed the below points:

- Role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in embedding the required employability skills
- ‘Confident Professional Portfolio’ – tool for students at Plymouth University hosted on ‘Moodle’ platform.
- ‘Plymouth Compass’ tool – learner, citizen, competent and confident, resilient and thriving.
- **HEAR – Higher education achievement report-** captures knowledge and skills gained through studies- modules taken, results, what they had to do to take them – video: <https://vimeo.com/50533056>
- Considering employer’s needs – UKCES : Employer Skills Survey 2015: UK Results (as an example)-
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525444/UKCESS_2015_Report_for_web_May_.pdf

- Considering that the academic disciplines are there to solve problems.
- 'Discover the future entrepreneurship centre' – how to do research to understand what successful entrepreneurs are doing- need to empower students and make them critical thinkers.

This session was followed by three sessions presented by the below stakeholders:

- 1- Raed Madanat, General Manager at “LOYAC”, presented the LOYAC internship programme and partnership with British Council to enhance LOYAC capacity in this area, the process, the approach and reach.
- 2- May Abuhamdia, Deputy Director, and British Council, presented “The learners’ voice ”infographic as a result of previously held youth forum, which was convened by British Council with a representative group of Jordanian youth who are in higher education, have started their careers, and/or looking for their first job.
- 3- Dr. Ashraf Bany Mohammed, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre, University of Jordan, discussed through his presentation ‘Employability, Entrepreneurship and Internationalizing of Higher Education”, the need to internationalise universities’ work in order to meet the international market demand on Jordanian workforce.

Day2:

- 1- Professor Nikolaos Tzokas, Executive Dean, Faculty of Business, Plymouth University, started day two with ‘How employability skills can be embedded into academic programmes at the HE policy level. Also, he shared the best practice for embedding the employability skills into curricula.
- 2- Dr Haya Al-Dajani, Associate Professor (Reader) in Entrepreneurship, Plymouth University presented examples and modules of skills required by employers, what each skill means, young people’s evidences in lessons and young people’s evidence outside lessons.

In the final session Dr. Haya shared a module on “Designing the employability embedded programme”, and asked the participants to draft their action plans (building on the provided module).

At the end of this session Dr Haya requested feedback from participants on different areas of the workshop. Below is an extract of the participants’ feedback on “**What did I learn from this workshop**” question?

- The roadmap to embed employability skills into curriculum
- To better assist our students in enhancing their employability skills
- we got better idea on how to deal with obstacles and difficulties
- Higher Education Assessment report (HEAR) and Compass approach
- How to involve students in the action plan
- To update the employability skills according to the market needs through conducting researches and market needs analysis
- Use the impact of embedding employability skills in the curricula as a tool to promote the university work
- The structured way to achieve any professional employability links

British Council asked for participant feedback on the workshop, and below are the participants feedback

