

University of the Highlands and Islands

Educator Capacity Building through the Scottish Enterprise Educators Programme

Stage in the typical student journey

Enterprise education fits within all stages of the student journey and can take place both within and external to the curriculum. The Scottish Enterprise Educators Programme (SEE) equips educators, and those seeking to develop enterprise outcomes in others, to develop strategies and tools to help raise Enterprise Awareness among the broad student population, develop curriculum and extra-curricular initiatives which help to develop student awareness of their Entrepreneurial Mindset, and encourage opportunities for learners to exploit opportunities to develop their Entrepreneurial Capabilities and Effectiveness.

Context

The European Union (2006) describes entrepreneurship as a 'key competence for all, helping young people to be creative and confident in whatever they undertake'. Within Scotland, Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) supports young people in developing skills which they will use throughout their life and in their work, including the development of enterprise and employability skills. The Scottish Government's Skills Strategy (Updated 2010) is aimed at improving the skills and employability of individuals and creating high-skill, high-productivity, healthy workplaces where this talent can be best used. The challenge then for the educator is to support the development of an Entrepreneurial Mindset within the learning environment. The SEE programme has been developed to support educators (and organisers of learning) to provide learning programmes which offer a holistic learning experience, supporting both intended learning outcomes through the effective selection of pedagogy and enabling students to develop the vital mix of knowledge, skills and mindset. SEE also encourages the professional development of educators to build a strong network of enterprising educators in Scotland able to exploit opportunities for their learners in the UK and beyond.

SEE was launched by CREATE at Inverness College UHI with the support of the National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education (NCEE).

Description

The programme focuses on the interlinking enterprise learning themes of creativity, enterprise, employability, entrepreneurship and innovation, which are proving fundamental to educators at all tertiary levels. The philosophy is about learner-centred education to encourage learners to 'Make Things Happen'. Through four modules, SEE supports educators to develop their personal capacities in four key areas: Philosophy - through appreciating the value and articulating the relevance of enterprise education; Pedagogy - by making effective use of teaching and learning methods to meet key enterprise outcomes; Networking - through proactively harnessing and developing relevant networks to create enterprising opportunities; and Being Personally Enterprising - in acting as a role model and personally demonstrating enterprising behaviour in the educational environment.

Summary of impact

The feedback has been of significant change in: an educator's mindset; their confidence to develop more innovative and creative approaches to teaching and learning; and creating new opportunities within their institutions. One educator participant reported 'Fantastically resourced programme. Delivery was challenging, fast-paced and excellent. This course is about more than enterprise - it is about challenging the ways we teach and think about what we are trying to achieve for our learners'. Over 90 per cent of participants noted that SEE provided them with new knowledge and skills to: implement new methods and tools in their teaching; implement new enterprise related content; create new enterprise opportunities for their learners; and create new ways to motivate and engage with their learners. With respect to impact on professional capabilities, over 90 per cent were also confident to implement new ways to embark into new pedagogical techniques, new networks and partnerships, and new ways to connect with businesses and entrepreneurs.

Strengths

This programme does not form a traditional education about programme but rather a development programme for. It is designed to be very practical by stimulating discussion, experimentation and development of creative and enterprising educational practice throughout the duration of the programme to encourage and support the development of the enterprising educator as a role model. This programme is built around the development of the educator to encourage the broader development of Enterprise and Entrepreneurial Mindset and Entrepreneurial Capabilities in themselves and in others to 'Make Things Happen'.

Improvements

Six monthly follow-up networking meetings at rotating institutions to: facilitate links between programme cohorts; give on-going opportunity to refresh thinking and keep abreast of international developments; and re-energise and enhance enterprising practice.

Partners

SEE was designed and developed by CREATE, in association with the NCEE, the International Entrepreneurship Educators Programme (IEEP) and in consultation with external and internal stakeholders. The IEEP is based on the innovative work of Professor Allan. A. Gibb (Professor Emeritus of Small Business Management at University of Durham Business School) which has been extremely valuable in the design, development and delivery of SEE. Practising entrepreneurs and enterprise educational champions from across UK are partners in the delivery of the programme.

Funding

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Website link

www.createhighland.com

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