



Focus Group Consultation

2021

Embedding Employability

Focus Group Collection



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Introduction

Welcome!

Funded by the [National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning](#), this focus-groups initiative offers staff, students, and employers an opportunity to uncover and exchange employability best practice. A series of focus groups have commenced, and the team is gathering invaluable insights from all relevant stakeholders to shine a light on all the excellent employability work we do.

As you know, the institute has a dedicated focus on employability. We consistently perform strongly on the national stage, with **94% of graduates obtaining employment in their first year**. Two-thirds of our programmes have a formal placement module, and many examples of excellent employability practice take place, particularly involving industry partnerships. Yet, these examples often go uncelebrated.

Student success optimises the learning and development opportunities for each student to recognise and fulfil their potential to contribute to, and flourish in, society.

National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in HE

This focus group research affords the institute with a unique opportunity to identify where the institute is performing well in relation to implementation of employability (i.e., via modules, programmes, or via each academic school). The employability best-practice we are uncovering presents an opportunity to inform, rejuvenate and sustain the employability required to weather a new future of work, notably in a post-pandemic era.

Our Employability Champions & Stakeholders

Spring 2021 saw the project team interview our '*Employability Champions*' across the institute. These included programme leaders, professional support staff, research cluster-led teams, employers, students, and lecturers immersed in applied teaching and professions-led degree programmes.

Our project team has had an overwhelmingly positive response from these employability champions, who are passionate about giving DkIT graduates the best chance to thrive in the modern workplace and the pandemic-hit jobs market. The insights gained are enabling us to

create a repository of evidence-based best practice, from which suite of resources for staff can be developed. Armed with these resources, staff will be able to add further value to their programmes and ensure students can hit the ground running upon graduation.

Amongst other goals, the focus groups will establish of a set of DkIT graduate attributes. We wish to draw out a shared vision for our graduates, and cultivate those attributes through our teaching, research, and wider community experiences. These attributes will inform a bespoke employability framework by drawing from the lived experiences of all staff and students.

In line with the goals of our Strategic Plan 2020–22, our students will be better prepared to enter the workplace, develop attributes that appeal to employers and connect their skills with societal needs. Feel free to be inspired and peruse what our Employability Champions and Stakeholders have to say throughout this booklet ‘in their own words and reflections’.

"On behalf of the Research Team and the Embedding Employability Steering Committee, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have lent their vital support to this project, in addition to the National Forum for recognising the project's value and impact. We look forward to a shared vision for employability that brings out the best in our graduates and readies them for their future careers."

Catherine Staunton, **Head of Careers & Employability**