

Keynote: Preparing students for lifelong employability in a digital world

A recent [CBI/Pearson survey](#) (CBI/Pearson 2015) highlights the stark reality of the graduate landscape: “*Businesses look first and foremost for graduates with the right attitudes and aptitudes to enable them to be effective in the workplace – nearly nine in ten employers (89%) value these above factors such as degree subject (62%)*”. If such needs of employers are to be addressed, universities must provide a lot more than just career/job guidance as a stand-alone end-of-programme activity.

Instead, the concept of lifelong employability needs to be nurtured in students throughout learning programmes. Peter will describe how programme teams can achieve this through “connected curricula” approaches, which bring together concepts such as T-profile curricula, partnership working with employers, authentic learning and assessment for learning - all underpinned using a 5-dimensional model of “technology for employability”.

These approaches are all described in a recent Jisc report “[Technology for Employability](#)” (Jisc, 2015) that Peter has co-authored and are illustrated with 20 in-depth case studies. Peter will also argue that expectations must be raised in relation to graduate (employability-framed) e-competences and e-leadership, highlighting how these are being realised in universities through initiatives such as students as change leaders and innovators.

CBI/Pearson (2015) “Inspiring growth: CBI/Pearson Education and Skills Survey 2015”
Jisc (2015) “Technology for Employability” authored by Dr Peter Chatterton and Geoff Rebbeck.