

Submission	<p>Employers often complain that graduates struggle in the cut-and-thrust of commerce because they lack an entrepreneurial spirit and business skills.</p> <p>But David Gibson, senior teaching fellow at Queen’s University Management school in Belfast, set out to change perception by establishing a project to give “enterprise for life” skills to all non-business students.</p> <p>Based on students creating their own business, his enterprise education course is now embedded in 67 academic areas at Queen’s, reaching 11,000 students across the university.</p> <p>For instance, history students were assessed on their ability to develop sustainable social enterprise for heritage sites in Ireland, while nurses were asked to create products to solve health problems.</p> <p>More than 30,000 students have participated in the scheme since it began in 2003, with 1,100 directly engaged in business activity.</p> <p>It has now been rolled out across more than 200 universities worldwide and has been adopted by the European Training Foundation to enhance the employability of graduates across the European Union.</p> <p>The programme has gained further plaudits in the US, where Mr. Gibson was the first European to be named the world’s number-one enterprise educator by the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship in 2010-2011.</p> <p>Judge Paul Ramsden, key associate of PhillipsKPA, visiting professor at the Institute of Education and former head of the Higher Education Academy, said: “David has made enterprise studies into a reality for over 30,000 students – in subjects as diverse as history and physics.</p> <p>“His strong focus on student engagement, his genuine cross-discipline approach and his groundbreaking model of venture-based learning have had an impact not only locally but also in universities across the world.”</p>
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