

Anglia Ruskin University has sought to promote the concept of entrepreneurship among students, staff and alumni – and this had led to significant growth in student numbers and income.

There are many signs of the entrepreneurial focus throughout the institution. For example, its MedTech campus is one of the world's largest health innovation spaces (the Clinical Trials Unit works with commercial sponsors to bring business and academic rigour to health research, thereby cutting the time it takes to bring innovations to market).

The Degrees and Work project has boosted the availability of higher education in the workplace. And Ixion, a not-for-profit group and university subsidiary, provides enterprise support to 5.000 start-ups (almost three-quarters of the, still trading after six months).

In terms of personnel, Anglia Ruskin's entrepreneurial mindset is reflected in the fact that five of its senior staff attended the sector's Entrepreneurial University Leaders Programme. Its appointment of entrepreneurs-in-residence and student enterprise champions offers further evidence.

Its growing reputation in this field is reflected both in extensive media coverage and in the number in international companies relocating to work with MedTech.

Keith Burnley, chief executive officer at the National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education and one of our judges, praised Anglia Ruskin for its "strategic approach to entrepreneurship in the fields of health and social care, and its commitment to local and regional partners".

Its courses, he added, "prepare entrepreneurial graduates as well as graduate entrepreneurs. The Degrees at Work team has delivered highly valued customer – and demand-led work-based learning."