

The university's entrepreneurial outlook is advocated from the top by the vice-chancellor, Bob Cryan, who sits on the Higher Education Funding Council for England's advisory committee on enterprise and skills. Over time, he has established an infrastructure at Huddersfield to support and lead entrepreneurship, including the formal position of a pro vice-chancellor for research and enterprise. The institution's strategic aims are "to produce employable and enterprising graduates" and to "contribute to economic development". This includes building a £12 million "hub" for innovation, where global companies rub shoulders with start-ups and Huddersfield's best student graduate business.

Huddersfield was helped to victory by its leadership of the "2.7 million Graduate Entrepreneurship Project, a European Regional Development Fund-supported collaboration of 10 universities across Yorkshire that won a 2011 National Enterprise Educator Award. The university also provides high-level leadership through having board members on Enterprise Educators UK and the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

David Frost, executive chairman of the National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education, who led the judging panel for this award, said it was clear from the entries this year that entrepreneurship had a "growing role in higher education". "Huddersfield has won this award because it uniquely brought together high-level leadership from within the university, quality support for business and a focus on employability skills," he said.