



CBI Director-General Richard Lambert who addressed local business leaders at Queen's in a keynote event organised jointly by the CBI and the University's Chief Executives' Club

Entrepreneurship

One of the most evident ways in which Queen's University contributes to economic prosperity is in producing graduates with the knowledge and skills to compete in the global marketplace.

The University is supporting the emergence of a new generation of entrepreneurs through initiatives that boost business skills and unlock creativity and innovative thinking in its students.

The Northern Ireland Centre for Entrepreneurship (NICENT), a partnership between Queen's and the University of Ulster, has gained national recognition for leading the way in fostering business enterprise. University-sector representative body Universities UK featured the unique project in its top level briefing document 'Higher level learning: Universities and employers working together', demonstrating how NICENT is developing a new culture of entrepreneurship.

The Centre's primary focus is to embed the spirit of entrepreneurship in universities in Northern Ireland. The Centre has introduced the concept of entrepreneurship to over 7,500 students since it was first established in 2000. Head of the Centre at Queen's, Richard Millen, said: "Our efforts within NICENT to promote entrepreneurial attitudes among students reflect our belief that entrepreneurship is not just about starting a new business. Within the NICENT partnership we seek to engender a change in attitude among students and inspire them to be entrepreneurial and innovative so that they can make a difference as employees or employers."

Queen's has also developed the Headstart programme, designed to help students explore entrepreneurship and generate viable business ideas. The initiative includes master-classes with some of Northern Ireland's leading entrepreneurs and business leaders. Many students involved

in NICENT and Headstart programmes go on to enter the prestigious £25,000 Entrepreneurship Award, organized by the Northern Ireland Science Park. The award scheme seeks to encourage students and researchers from the local universities to act on their talents, ideas and energy to produce tomorrow's leading firms.

Queen's is also involved in extensive networking activities to help local students and business leaders in acquiring the skills, knowledge and global connections to compete on the world stage. A range of keynote addresses, lectures and master classes are held throughout the year at Queen's bringing world experts in innovation, entrepreneurship and science to Northern Ireland to share their insights and knowledge with student and business audiences.

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