

Core Services for Higher/Further Education

- Project development
- Interim project management
- Project/programme evaluation
- Mentoring/coaching in the project environment

Our performance

Examples of recent projects and clients include:

- Assessment of the potential for knowledge transfer and commercialisation of the Department for Theology, Islamic and Religious Studies at University of Wales, Trinity Saint David
- Support for a cultural change programme at Swansea University
- Review of provision and partnership development for Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Evaluation of the ERDF supported Anaerobic Digestion Centre of Excellence at the University of South Wales
- Evaluation of the CADARN Skills Centre on behalf of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Glyndwr and Open universities
- Identification and development of a cohort of HEIs from across the UK with specific expertise to support employees and service-leavers in Swindon and Wiltshire
- Research into specific business sector contacts for the Open University

What makes us different?

Key members of the 20 Degrees team have substantial experience of working within Higher/Further Education at senior levels including Heads of Commercial/Enterprise, European and International Offices. This gives us insider appreciation of the challenges faced by the sector.

“ We marry this with expertise gained through working with a wide range of other sectors to bring new insights and challenge to current HE/FE practice.”

Contact

We would be delighted to discuss your needs – ring Alun Hughes on 01443 866278 or e-mail alun.hughes@20degrees.co.uk.

20 DEGREES CONSULTING

Examples of Previous Projects Undertaken

Evaluation of the CADARN Skills Centre (CSC), a project funded by HEFCW (Higher Education Funding Council for Wales).

CSC is a collaboration between Aberystwyth, Bangor, Glyndwr and the Open universities.

It exists to provide a joined up service for training and CPD in Mid and North Wales, in particular to tackle the issues of accessing affordable, relevant training for businesses based in a rural area. The evaluation considered the impact of the services provided and the nature of the collaboration.

A mixed method approach was adopted i.e. qualitative and quantitative methods:

- (1) semi-structured interviews with university staff, both CSC staff as 'suppliers' and academic staff as 'users';
- (2) an electronic survey of employers/employees in the region that had accessed services from the universities via the CSC – this gathered both qualitative and quantitative data;
- (3) semi-structured interviews with stakeholders external to the universities e.g. employers, employees, representatives of employer bodies, local government officials and policy makers;
- (4) focus groups and an electronic survey of students who had accessed some of the employability provision of the CSC.

This data was underpinned by desk research of the policy context for higher level skills and a review of the project monitoring information.

Case studies were used extensively to 'tell the story' of the needs experienced by employers and the effectiveness of the CSC in meeting those needs. Clear recommendations for the future were presented and best practice identified in the evaluation was highlighted.



Support for Swansea University

We have supported a series of projects at Swansea University, drawing on different aspects of our capabilities:

- (1) Prospecting for suitable company leaders to engage in an ESF funded development programme;
- (2) Supporting a culture change project by facilitating a series of workshops to gain maximum buy-in from academic and professional service staff for a new way of working;
- (3) Providing additional capacity to write an urgent EU funding proposal.

Development of a Cohort of Pathfinder HE Providers for Swindon & Wiltshire LEP (SWLEP)

Swindon and Wiltshire represents a high growth region of the UK. The SWLEP secured a City Deal to support an ambitious 5-year programme which will lead to higher level up-skilling of 18,000 local people to address a sizeable and growing skills gap in the local economy.

20 Degrees had the task of establishing a pathfinder cohort of HE providers. A comprehensive mapping exercise of HE providers was undertaken against the SWLEP priority sectors.

This long list was filtered down to a short list by the need for HE providers with demonstrable experience of working flexibly with Service Leavers and employers. Moreover the providers needed to demonstrate significant experience of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and a willingness to collaborate with employers and other providers to create the best outcomes for learners.

A transparent qualification exercise was run by 20 Degrees to create the pathfinder cohort of HE providers.

Isobel Brown, Director of the SWLEP commented,

“ It has been a pleasure working with 20 Degrees. They have got on with the job with great professionalism and delivered exactly what we needed.”