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**Employer Engagement: Preparing Young People for the Future**

**6th International Conference on Employer Engagement in Education**

**1stand 2nd July 2021**

[**Westminster Kingsway College, Victoria Centre, London**](https://www.westking.ac.uk/about-us/our-centres-and-locations/victoria-centre/)

**Call for papers**

This conference is hosted by [Education and Employers](https://www.educationandemployers.org/) in partnership with the [Edge Foundation](http://www.edge.co.uk/). It will focus on employer engagement in general education, technical and vocational education and training, and the extent to which such interventions adequately prepare young people for the rapidly changing world of work. In particular, attention will focus on the need to develop and capture the skill requirements within the changing labour market and how such interventions can support young people as part of the response to Covid-19. The conference also seeks to reflect on reforms and policy shifts in relation to education and training and employer engagement internationally.

**Conference themes**

We invite UK and international participation from researchers, policy makers and practitioners across all phases of education (compulsory, post-compulsory and continuing).

 We particularly welcome contributions focusing upon the following themes:

**Theme 1: Employer engagement and preparation for work**

* Jobs of the future: predicting the changing labour market, post-Brexit and Covid-19 – UK and international trends
* Addressing the disconnection between career aspirations and labour market opportunities
* Levelling the playing field: vocational education as a prestigious pathway
* Transitions to work in the 21st century labour market: UK and international perspectives
* What role can schools/colleges/higher education institutions play in enhancing the career readiness of their students?

**Theme 2: Employer engagement and pedagogy**

* The role and impact of employer engagement in primary, secondary, further and higher education
* Pedagogical opportunities and challenges presented by employer engagement
* Making learning meaningful: the role of employers and community organisations in bringing learning to life

**Theme 3: Employer engagement and the curriculum**

* Embedding employer engagement within the curriculum: approaches and challenges
* Effective employer engagement within the curriculum, examples of practice
* Assessing vocational and practical learning
* Employer engagement and professional development opportunities

**To submit an abstract or a symposium proposal**

We welcome papers from a range of organisations including schools, colleges, universities, public, private and voluntary bodies. The conference presents an excellent opportunity for showcasing multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches including, but not limited to, the fields of education, sociology, psychology, economics and business. We would encourage papers from both research and practitioner communities; demonstrating a range of methodological approaches.

We are also looking to showcase practitioners reflecting on their experiences of implementing employer engagement; examples of assessment strategies would be particularly welcome.

Submissions need not take the form of anacademic paper. We welcome suggestions for alternative formats, including, but not limited to, round tables, workshops, and small interactive group work. We welcome, and encourage, submissions from international and UK contributors. Submit your abstract, or summary, here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GV3BYFJ>.

**When submitting your proposal, please indicate in which format you would wish to present your work (e.g. paper, workshop, roundtable).**

All abstracts and proposals should be submitted by **20th January 2021**, accepted papers and proposals will be notified by **the end of February 2021.**

**Enquiries:** Martin Rogers – Martin.Rogers@educationandemployers.org

**Dissemination**

The [*Journal of Education and Work*](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cjew20) has been approached to once again be a formal partner of the conference. As with previous conferences, we hope that papers will be printed in a [collection of *Research for Practice* essays](https://www.educationandemployers.org/research/research-for-practice-papers-from-the-2016-international-conference-on-employer-engagement-in-education-and-training/) (see [2016](https://www.educationandemployers.org/research/research-for-practice-papers-from-the-2016-international-conference-on-employer-engagement-in-education-and-training/) and [2018](https://www.educationandemployers.org/research/research-for-practice-2018/) editions). Papers presented at the London conference can also expect to be disseminated across academic, policy and practitioner audiences. Papers and materials will also be publicised through our research blog and newsletter which reaches an audience of over 3,400 researchers, educators, policy makers and other interested stakeholders.

**Confirmed partners:**

Key partners already confirmed are Education and Employers and the Edge Foundation. If you would like to discuss supporting the conferenceas a partner or sponsor, please contact Martin Rogers – Martin.Rogers@educationandemployers.org

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