



Title: Enterprise Education and Social Capital

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ENTERPRISE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

Dr Sarah Preedy has examined the range of benefits students perceived to have attained from engaging in extracurricular enterprise education.⁴¹ Extracurricular enterprise activities were defined as “academic or non-academic activities that are not a required part of the curriculum, do not involve academic credit, and participation is optional.” This may include business competitions, guest lectures, workshops and networking events, raising awareness, assisting students in setting up businesses or promoting entrepreneurship as a future career. The sample included qualitative data from 78 undergraduate and postgraduate students across 24 UK universities.⁴²

Skills development was the most commonly cited benefit of participating in extracurricular enterprise activities and valued for its applicability to both entrepreneurial activity and preparedness for employment:

- 92% of respondents cited skills development as a benefit of engaging in extracurricular enterprise education.
- 77% of respondents cited personal growth as a benefit of engaging in extracurricular enterprise education. Participation had enhanced their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses and bolstered their confidence.
- 73% of respondents cited knowledge acquisition as a benefit of engagement.
- 73% of respondents cited enhanced social capital as a benefit of engagement.

41 Sarah Preedy. (2017) “An Examination of Student’s Entrepreneurial Learning through Extracurricular Enterprise Activities” PhD thesis, Plymouth University.

42 Submission to APPG for Entrepreneurship, Plymouth Marjon University.