Supporting Students with Entrepreneurial Career Interests: A Collaborative Approach

New ways of working in partnership, Oral

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Abstract:

The transition from student to graduate is no longer limited to securing a traditional nine-to-five job in the corporate or government sector. As students become more aware of career options in the entrepreneurial and start-up space, the University of Sydney Careers Centre has taken steps to develop collaborative relationships, source industry-relevant information and connect students with new opportunities.

While the University of Sydney offers support services for students looking to commercialise their research or start their own business, many students who express an interest in entrepreneurship are yet to develop a marketable idea. Our aim at the Careers Centre is to assist students at all stages of their career planning to gather the right information, develop entrepreneurial skills that can be utilised in a range of settings, and build networks to bridge the gap between interest and action.

In 2017 the Careers Centre launched the Start-up Careers Fair, an exhibition-style employment fair offering students the opportunity to network directly with start-up founders and employers. This has been complemented by a range of activities including start-up panel discussions, entrepreneurial skill development workshops, and employability programs developed in association with employers, government and other universities.

This session will focus on the evolution of Careers Centre services for entrepreneurially-minded students and the development of targeted activities to support their career goals.

Biography:

Angela Harrow has over ten years’ experience in the education sector with a particular focus on students from diverse cultural backgrounds. She holds an honours degree in Psychology and has a keen interest in assisting students who face barriers to employment to develop the skills and confidence necessary to launch their careers.