



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

The way forward for improving graduate employability 18th October 2012

CONDITIONS FOR USE OF TRANSCRIPTS:

This document is intended to provide a timely reference for interested parties who are unable to attend the event to which it refers. Some portions are based on transcripts of proceedings and others consist of text submitted by speakers or authors, and are clearly marked as such. As such, apart from where it is indicated that the text was supplied by the speaker, it has not been possible for the transcript to be checked by speakers and so this portion of the document does not represent a formal record of proceedings. Despite best endeavours by Westminster Forum Projects and its suppliers to ensure accuracy, text based on transcription may contain errors which could alter the intended meaning of any portion of the reported content. Anyone who intends to publicly use or refer to any text based on the transcript should make clear that speakers have not had the opportunity for any corrections, or check first with the speaker in question. If in doubt please contact the forum first.

Contents

About this Publication	3
Agenda	4
<u>Session Chair's opening remarks</u>	
Baroness Prosser , Chair, Youth Employment Taskforce, Recruitment & Employment Confederation (<i>transcript</i>)	6
<u>The current state of graduate employment</u>	
Nannette Ripmeester , Director, Expertise in Labour Mobility (ELM) (<i>transcript</i>)	7
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	10
<u>Improving graduate employment skills and readiness for the labour market</u>	
Professor Helen Higson , Professor of Higher Education Learning and Management and Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Aston University (<i>transcript</i>)	14
James Darley , Director, Graduate Recruitment, Teach First (<i>transcript</i>)	16
Kate O'Connor , Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Creative Skillset (<i>transcript</i>)	18
Martin Birchall , Founder and Managing Director, High Fliers Research (<i>transcript</i>)	20
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	22
<u>Shifting the focus to graduate employability: developments in careers advice, the role of Employability Statements and the impact of Key Information Sets</u>	
Dr Paul Redmond , President, AGCAS (Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services) and Director of Employability and Education Opportunities, University of Liverpool (<i>transcript</i>)	29
Lewis Coakley , Higher Education Union Development Officer, NUS (<i>transcript</i>)	31
Bob Gilworth , Director, University of Leeds Careers Centre (<i>transcript</i>)	33
Mike Barnard , Product Manager, Milkround (<i>transcript</i>)	35
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	37
<u>Session Chair's closing remarks</u>	
Baroness Prosser , Chair, Youth Employment Taskforce, Recruitment & Employment Confederation (<i>transcript</i>)	43
<u>Session Chair's opening remarks</u>	
Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP	44
<u>Assessing the recommendations in the Wilson Review - internships, work placements and further collaboration between universities and businesses</u>	
Professor Zahir Irani , Head, Brunel Business School, Brunel University (<i>transcript</i>)	45
Robert Ashton , Author and Social Entrepreneur (<i>transcript</i>)	48
Vanessa Gough , Professional Development Manager, IBM UK Foundation (<i>transcript</i>)	51
Matthias Feist , Head of Careers & Business Relations, Regent's College, London and Chair, Placement in Industry Network (PlaceNet) (<i>transcript</i>)	53
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	55
<u>The way forward for improving graduate employability</u>	
Paul Hazell , Higher Education Policy Adviser, HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) (<i>transcript</i>)	61
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	64
<u>Session Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks</u>	
Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP	69
Jonny Roberts , Senior Producer, Westminster Employment Forum and Westminster Higher Education Forum (<i>transcript</i>)	70
Comments	
Arti Kumar , University of Bedfordshire	71
List of Delegates Registered for Seminar	73
Contributor and Westminster Employment Forum Biographies	77

About this Publication

This publication reflects proceedings at the Westminster Employment Forum and Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar: The way forward for improving graduate employability held on 18th October 2012. The views expressed in the articles are those of the named authors, not those of the Forum or the sponsors, apart from their own articles.

Although Westminster Employment Forum and Westminster Higher Education Forum are grateful to all sponsors for the funding on which we depend, participation in events and publications is never conditional on being a sponsor. As well as funding ongoing operations, sponsorship enables the Forum to distribute complimentary copies of publications, and offer complimentary tickets for events, to Government ministers, parliamentarians and officials most involved in policy.

This publication is copyright. Its copying, in whole or in part, is not permitted without the prior written consent of the publishers. However, extracts of the text may be reproduced for academic or review purposes, subject to the conditions of use outlined in the previous page, providing they are accurate, are not used in a misleading context and the author, their organisation and the Westminster Employment Forum and Westminster Higher Education Forum are acknowledged. We would also appreciate being informed.

Westminster Employment Forum and Westminster Higher Education Forum

4 Bracknell Beeches
Old Bracknell Lane West
Bracknell,
Berkshire, RG12 7BW

T: 01344 864796

F: 01344 420121

publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk

Directors

Peter van Gelder
Chris Whitehouse