

Survey on Higher Education Institution-company cooperation -

Introduction

This is a short survey looking at businesses' cooperation with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The questionnaire asks about the following areas:

- General questions about your company
- Questions about cooperation with HEIs
- Questions about R&D cooperation with HEIs
- Questions about students' work placements
- Questions about the training needs of your company

Completing the questionnaire will take at most, 20 minutes of your time. We appreciate your participation.

This questionnaire is part of the project "Good Practice Pilot Action for Innovative Industries: Education, Training and Exploitation" (GADGET) a consortium of 9 international partners led by University of Alicante (Spain). GADGET's objective is to pilot good practice across 3 countries in cooperation between Higher Education Institutions and companies in the energy/environment industries. Any information or data provided is done so in strictest confidence, will only be used for this project, and will not be shared with third parties.

We have endeavoured to make the survey as user-friendly as possible. While individual responses will remain confidential, we hope that you will fill in your contact information. This will allow us to provide you with a summary of the survey results and contact you with information on the training offers developed within the project, which will all be delivered free of charge.

Thank you very much, once again, for your participation.

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General Questions about your company

If you wish to be anonymous please simply skip any questions on this page which you do not want to answer.

1. Your Company

Name of the company

E-mail

2. Number of Employees

- none
- 1 to 9 employees
- 10 to 50 employees
- 51 to 100 employees
- 101 to 250 employees
- over 250

3. Annual revenue in British Pounds

- less than 500.000
- 500.000 to 1 million
- 1 to 2 million
- 2 to 5 million
- over 5 million

4. Main area of business

5. Year of company foundation

Questions about Cooperation with HEIs (Higher Education Institutions)

Please answer those questions applicable to you

***6. Has your company worked with HEIs in the past?**

Yes

No

7. Recommendation

Would you recommend your HEI partner(s) to other companies?

- Yes No

If no, why not?

8. Which HEI has your company worked with?

9. My company has worked with higher education institutions (HEI) in following ways (multiple answers possible)

- R&D cooperation
- Work experience with students
- Consulting by HEIs for my company
- Consulting by my company for HEIs
- Knowledge transfer or exchange
- Organizing events
- Trainings by the HEI
- My company participating in teaching within HEI
- Representation in committees and advisory boards

Other (please specify)

***10. How did the cooperation between your company and HEI start? (multiple answers possible)**

- We approached HEI
- HEI approached us
- HEI responded to tender
- Recommendation

Other (please specify)

11. Recommendation

By whom:

- Via personal contact
- Article/report in media

12. Why does your company choose to cooperate with HEI?

(Mark **ONLY** the most important reasons)(multiple answers possible)

- HEI staff quality and expertise
- Quality of results is excellent
- HEI has the best available resources for our project
- Timeframe, quality and cost considerations that the HEI meets best
- Access to additional infrastructure & resources
- Intellectual property rights requirements
- HEI has exclusive knowledge

Other (please specify)

13. How long have you been cooperating with HEIs?

14. How would you rate your last HEI-company collaboration in terms of....?

| | Excellent | Good | Sufficient | Poor | Don't know |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Competencies of university staff (teachers, admin, researchers, etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Quality of results | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Quality of available equipment | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Costs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Timely delivery of results | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

15. If you had not collaborated with HEIs to date, why is this? (multiple answers possible)

- We did not know how to begin an approach to an HEI
- We did not know who the right contact person is within any HEI
- We already have all sufficient qualification/expertise internally.
- We prefer cooperating with other companies rather than with HEIs
- The approached university did not want to cooperate with us
- We thought that HEI-offered services are more expensive and time-consuming than other offers
- Knowledge of other companies' bad experiences with HEI
- We did not know what any HEI could offer our company

Other (please specify)

***16. Research & Development Cooperation**

Has your company been involved in R&D with HEIs in the past?

- Yes
- No

17. Which type of activity have you collaborated in? (please indicate all that apply)

- Entrepreneurship
- Market Entry Study
- Internationalization
- Local Market Expansion
- Technological Innovations
- Product Development
- Product Design

Other (please specify)

18. Which thematic areas have you collaborated in?(multiple answers possible)

- Renewable energy (Biomass, Geothermal, Hydro, Photovoltaic, Wind etc.)
- Pollution technologies (Air, contaminated Land, Noise, Marine)
- Environmental Monitoring/Consultancy
- Water/waste management
- Transport and mobility technologies
- Low carbon technologies, (Buildings, Carbon capture and storage)
- Energy/Carbon Management

Other (please specify)

19. On which type of activity would you like to collaborate in future? (multiple answers possible)

- Entrepreneurship
- Market Entry Study
- Internationalization
- Local Market Expansion
- Technological Innovations
- Product Development
- Product Design

Other (please specify)

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20. In which thematic areas would you like to collaborate in future? (multiple answers possible)

- Renewable energy (Biomass, Geothermal, Hydro, Photovoltaic, Wind etc.)
- Pollution technologies (Air, contaminated Land, Noise, Marine)
- Environmental Monitoring/Consultancy
- Water/waste management
- Transport and mobility technologies
- Low carbon technologies, (Buildings, Carbon capture and storage)
- None

Other (please specify)

21. Funding of cooperation

| | Yes | No | NA/ Don't know |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Do you know that there is grant funding available for collaboration with HEIs? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Has your past or current cooperation with an HEI been grant funded? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Would you have collaborated with the HEI if not grant funded? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Undergraduate and postgraduate internships and work placements

***22. Have you engaged a student to work for your organization in the past?**

Yes

No

If no, why not?

23. Please tell us about you experience with internships by indicating how much you agree with the following statements.

| | Strongly agree | Partially agree | Neutral | Partially disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know/NA |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The HEI offered us an appropriate selection of students for work placement | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The supervision by the HEI during the work placement was helpful and effective | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| After the work placement, the feedback process with the HEI worked well | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| We would be willing to take on more students in the future for work placement | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The work of the student had a positive impact on our business | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

24. Funding of work placements

| | Yes | No | NA/Don't know |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Do you know that there is grant funding available for student work placements? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Did you use grant funding for any student work placements? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Would you have taken on the student if not grant funded? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

25. Work Placement

Did you employ any of the students after the work assignment?

- Yes
- No

If no, why not?

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26. How would you rate graduates' competences in your field of business in the following areas?

| | Excellent | Good | Sufficient | Poor | Don't know |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Quality management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Leadership competencies including diversity management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Entrepreneurial competences (Networking, Strategic thinking etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Project management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Innovation management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Communication Skills | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Intercultural Skills | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Foreign languages competences (English, German, Spanish) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Engineering and technological competencies | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Science competences | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Soft skills (presentation, negotiation, etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| IT Skills | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sustainability Management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

27. Preparedness of Graduates

Do you feel graduates are generally well-prepared through their HEI education to work in your company?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If not, what do you think is lacking?

Questions about Training Needs of Current and Future Employees

Please answer those questions applicable to you

28. How important do you consider the following competencies for your current and future EMPLOYEES contributing to corporate success?

| | Very Important | Important | Neutral | Unimportant | Very unimportant |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Quality management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Leadership competencies including diversity management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Entrepreneurial competences (Networking, Strategic thinking etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Project management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Innovation management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Communication Skills | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Intercultural Skills | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Foreign languages competences (English, German, Spanish) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Engineering and technological competencies | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Science competences | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Soft skills (presentation, negotiation, etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| IT Skills | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sustainability Management | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (List only competences that consider to be very important)

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29. How does your organisation currently plan for and address its skills and training needs?

| | Strongly agree | Partially agree | Neutral | Partially disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| We allocate budget for employee training | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Training has been undertaken in the past 12 months | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Training is planned in our company within the next 12 months | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Our employees are always encouraged to educate themselves | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Training is mandatory for employees to attend | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Our employees have all the necessary skills and competences | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Our employees are trained by our own staff, in house | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| We make use of external training offers (training providers, consulting companies etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| External training leads to the best results. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

* 30. Do you receive information about HEI training courses

- Yes
- No

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31. Please evaluate the following statements according to your observations.

| | Strongly agree | Partially agree | Neutral | Partially disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| HEI offer courses in line with the current industry needs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| HEI training courses offer a good balance between theoretical and practical content. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| HEI training courses fit exactly my company's needs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The cost-benefit ratio of HEI training courses is adequate. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The time-frame set for HEI training courses is adequate. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| HEI training courses are better suited for our company needs than courses offered by other training providers. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

32. What aspects should future HEI training courses include? Which do you prefer?

| | Yes | No | Don't know |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Face-to-Face | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Online / E-learning | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mix of both | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

33. Would you take more advantage of offered trainings if you had external funding available?

- Yes
- No

Thank you very much for completing the questionnaire!

34. If you like to receive a copy of the final project results, please tick yes!

Yes

No