

Policy Forum

Enhancing graduate employability

Hilton Hotel
Baku, Azerbaijan
31 October 2019

www.britishcouncil.az

This conference will mark the beginning of the British Council's Higher Education for Employability programme in Azerbaijan, bringing together policy makers and practitioners from the UK and Azerbaijan to share experience, good practice and lessons learned. This event aims to explore how we can increase higher education institutions' capacity to enhance the employability of their graduates, making them competitive locally and globally, and having a mechanism to systematically collect data in order to monitor graduate outcomes. The conference will provide learning and strategic partnership opportunities between the higher education institutions and businesses in the UK and Azerbaijan.

09.30 welcome addresses

Summer Xia

Country Director, British Council in Azerbaijan,
Higher Education for Employability
Programme Director

**Baroness Emma Nicholson
of Winterbourne**

Member of the House of Lords, Prime
Minister's Trade Envoy to Iraq, Azerbaijan,
Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan

Jeyhun Bayramov

Minister of Education of the Republic of
Azerbaijan

09.45 session 01 plenary

**Learning from the best practice:
presenting the UK's new national
graduate outcomes data**

David Vivian

Director, IFF Research

Daniel Salamons

Research Manager, IFF Research

Agenda:

- *Historical context of the higher education data collection in the UK,*
- *Technical design of DLHE (destination of leavers from higher education) / graduate outcomes surveys,*
- *The power and the use of graduate outcomes data,*
- *Applying best practice in Azerbaijan.*

10.45 group photo

11.00 session 02 panel discussion

**Graduate skills and data collection:
perspective from the higher
education institutions in Azerbaijan**

Raziya Isayeva

Development Director, Khazar University

Ulker Sattarova

Vice-Rector of Azerbaijan State University of
Architecture and Construction

Vafa Kazdal

Vice-Rector of ADA University

Emin Amrullayev

Director of Institute of Education

Shahin Seyidzade

Head of SABA Group's Executive Committee

Nigar Baimova *chair*

Deputy Director, British Council in Azerbaijan

Agenda:

- *How higher education institutions in Azerbaijan could produce graduates with relevant sector skills to fill the gaps in the labour market,*
- *How can curriculum development best evolve to support graduates that fit the future employment needs of Azerbaijan,*
- *How can data be collected, analysed and applied to support interventions.*

12.15 session 03 workshop

Exploring current data collection practices at Azerbaijani higher education institutions

IFF Research and British Council
moderation

Agenda:

- *What is the current data collection on student employability and how it is used,*
- *Building a data collection strategy: how would institutions like to create data, what would they use it for, and how can they work with other institutions / governments to achieve this,*
- *Challenges: what are the barriers to implementation, and how can these be overcome.*

13.15 lunch and networking

14.15 session 04 presentation

Sharing expertise and best practice: perspective from the universities in the UK

Esther Kent

Academic Director of Employability, Sheffield Hallam University

John Cusworth

Partnerships Director, Gradcore

Agenda:

- *Graduate employability, skills and engagement,*
- *Employer engagement,*
- *Curriculum development.*

15.15 coffee and networking

15.30 session 05 panel discussion

Challenges of recruiting graduates: perspective from the employers in Azerbaijan

Nuran Kerimov

Managing Partner, Deloitte Azerbaijan

Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli

Vice-President, BP Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey

Tatyana Mikayilova

Founder, 100 Business Women of Azerbaijan

Student representative

Nargiz Huseynova *chair*

English and Education Manager, British Council in Azerbaijan

Agenda:

- *What it means to be “work-ready”,*
- *What employers want their employees to learn at the higher education institutions,*
- *Current labour market trends,*
- *Examples of how businesses currently work with the higher education institutions: internships, co-creation of curriculum, and graduate fast-tracks.*

16.30 closing plenary

Actions forward

Ulker Sattarova

Vice-Rector of Azerbaijan State University of Architecture and Construction

Emin Amrullayev

Director of Institute of Education, Ministry of Education

David Vivian

Director, IFF Research

Nigar Baimova *chair*

Deputy Director, British Council in Azerbaijan

