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# Collaboration; breaking boundaries: depth and innovation in the student journey.

SINGLETON, A.

2019

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# LEARNING WITHOUT BORDERS

RGU'S ANNUAL LEARNING AND TEACHING CONFERENCE  
THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2019



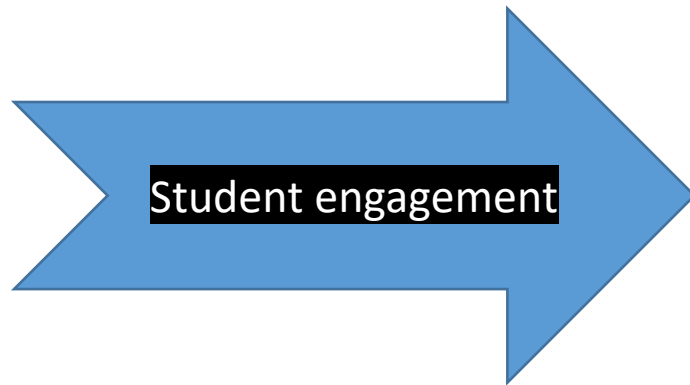
***Collaboration;  
breaking boundaries: depth and  
innovation in the student journey***

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# Rationale for change- opportunity!

- New module development
- Visitor experiences are changing, we need to be forward looking
- Forward looking for the student experience



### Activity

- Experiential learning (Kolb 1984, Dewey 1938, Race 2014)

Break down  
the  
boundaries  
of the  
classroom

- Develop an inspiring external learning space (Kolb & Kolb 2005)



Collaboration

National Trust  
for Scotland

Crathes Castle

# Breaking boundaries – planning....





Team creation



Skill development



Collaborative workshops.





- Teamwork
  - A key element of the assessment is teamwork, a fundamental employability skill essential for each of the subject disciplines (Kumar 2018, Riebe et al 2010).
- Cross-discipline teams
  - Creative team development
  - The students selected their teams through using an innovative management team activity. 'Personality Poker®' (Shapiro 2018).



# Professional collaboration first steps of the journey.....

- Within the module lectures and workshops facilitate the preparation of the students before the live activity.
- Soft skill development – communication; teamwork;
- Professional development



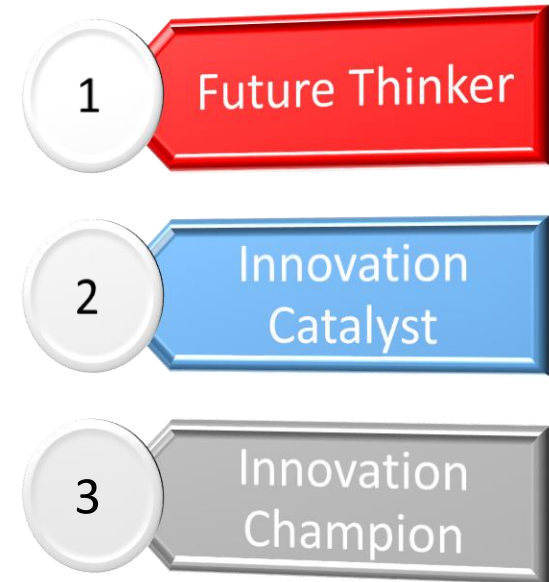
# Collaboration with Scottish Institute for Enterprise.....

- Workshops to enhance depth of learning and innovation
  - Business modelling (Osterwalder and Pigneur 2010)
  - Future Ready
  - Visitor journey

# Scottish Innovative Student Awards (SISA)

## Why should you participate?

- ✓ A greater understanding of innovation and how this relates to your studies
- ✓ The opportunity to stand out in the graduate market, highlighting key competencies and awarded titles
- ✓ Increased awareness of emerging career opportunities
- ✓ Practical support from industry experts
- ✓ Generate new ideas for potential new venture creation during your studies.



Complete the short survey to receive your SISA Level 1 certificate

<https://www.sie.ac.uk/level1registration/>

# Breaking boundaries – off-campus activity...



# NTS Crathes Castle – day activity

Manager discussions in sector groups

Castle tour

Consolidation of ideas

Team pitches to manager panel

Final Q&A at the end of the day.

# Benefits of Industry Engagement and Collaboration

Helps to develop soft skills relevant to future employment

(Azim et al 2010; Robles 2012; Chavan 2011; Plakhotnic 2017).

# Future collaboration and opportunities





# Feedback: Strengths

- ✓ Being able to have a full insight of the Castle to be able to relate it to our assignment (EM student).
- ✓ Seeing the venue and assessing how we could use the space for a visitor experience idea. Interesting to hear what ideas the managers have for future events at the venue and how they are trying to plan this around any issues risks (EM student).
- ✓ I really enjoyed the tour around the castle, learnt a lot about what the castle & grounds had to offer for our business idea (ITM student).
- ✓ Tour guide very knowledgeable. It was good for us to pitch our ideas and for them to ask us questions( ITM student)
- ✓ Being able to pitch our idea to the decision makers and receiving authentic reactions and genuine feedback that can be used within our task / assignment (IHM student).
- ✓ The pitch was more relaxed making it easier to talk as felt more comfortable (IHM).

# Feedback: Weaknesses

- Felt like all of the time was not used effectively, could have been more tasks/activities (EM student).
- There were times we were not doing much- could have had another activity for us to do (ITM student).
- The original layout and organisation of tour groups (IHM student).

## Recommendations:

- More time to explore grounds.
- Smaller groups
- More activities

# Developments on the day:

- We were able to find the ideal location for our experience, allowing us to consolidate our idea (EM student).
- Changes were made after seeing the castle and discovering what would/wouldn't work (EM student).
- Managed to make definite decisions regarding the idea. Came up with future proofing plan (ITM student).
- We know how to make a stronger pitch, how our idea will develop more (ITM student).
- We were able to actually visualise our idea becoming a reality.. Discuss any queries with the managers (IHM student).
- We took some key information from the managers, and this allowed us to adapt our idea (IHM student).
- I think we were really able to envision the customer there and our trail too (IHM student).
- Changed our target audience to families - better understanding of castle (IHM student).

# Feedback / Considerations:

- Cross-discipline learning
- Teamwork
- Positive networking
- Opportunity to improve communication skills
- Opportunity to be creative
  
- *Group size*
- *Structure of the day*
- *Develop further activities, avoid gaps during the day.*

Future collaboration

Future opportunities 

**Feedback from National Trust for  
Scotland managers.....**

***Thought provoking and more!!!!***

# Impact

**CRAIGIEVAR**  
**CASTLE**  
**HADDOHOUSE**  
**DRUM** **CRAATHES**  
**FYVIE** **FRASER**



Any  
Questions



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