

Student Innovation at Warwick


Rachel Davis R.M.Davis@warwick.ac.uk

(Director of Warwick Enterprise)

Lewis Beer Lewis.Beer@warwick.ac.uk


(International Partnerships Officer, formerly Enterprise Development Officer)

An Innovation Centre typically supports the Inspiration, Education and Incubation of entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs



1 INSPIRATION

- CHALLENGE EVENTS
- INDUSTRY LEADERS
- HACKATHONS
- CAREER POSSIBILITIES



2 EDUCATION

BELIEF

- Fear of failure

SKILLS

- Design thinking

TOOLS

- Pitching

COMPETITION CALLS + EXTERNAL STIMULUS +
INITIAL IDEAS + RESEARCH + ITERATION



3 INCUBATION. New Products, Services and Companies

FORMATION → **VALIDATION** → **GROWTH**

Mission, Vision, Strategy *Real, win & worth it* *Establish & strengthen*

- Ideation
- Experimentation
- Concepting
- Team creation
- Customer centred design

- MVP
- Test, learn, iterate
- Pivot
- Business model

- Product/market fit
- Exit planning
- Prof leadership
- Right location

SUPPORT PROGRAM

DEDICATED SPACE Co-creation, Serendipity/Café, Maker/prototype, live Lab

SERVICES Legal, IP, Accounting, Tech/web, Mapuf, AWS/Google credits, Cloud with Mentors

FUNDING Proof of market, Seed, Series A

DIGITAL PIONEERS' PLATFORM Education, Communities and Innovation process

A culture of innovation for all

‘In this strategy, we imagine how the University of Warwick might be in 2030: how we will be excellent in everything we do and how our excellence will be channelled into a renewed purpose and impact. We begin with our aspirations in our core purposes of Research and Education and explain how they will be underpinned by four strategic priorities: **Innovation**, Inclusion, Regional Leadership and International.’

[\(Warwick in 2030 Strategy\)](#)

‘**Every student should get an opportunity to engage with innovation...** We envisage that by 2025, all students will have the opportunity to take a credit-bearing module in a subject related to innovation.’

(Innovation Strategy)

Our online resource

- A [website](#) visible only to University of Warwick staff
- Reports on 33 academic departments
- Detailed information on how each department fosters student innovation
- Written in consultation with over 115 colleagues
- Approved by each Head of Department
- c. 56,000 words in total

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Departments

Department reports

About these reports

There are 33 reports uploaded to this page: these have been amended and approved by Heads of Department.

Each report summarises how students engage with innovation in the department in question, and is intended to reflect conversations between staff in that department and members of the Warwick Enterprise team.

This is a dynamic resource that can be updated over time: we welcome further input from colleagues. Please join the [Warwick Innovation Network](#) on Microsoft Teams or contact enterprise@warwick.ac.uk.

Please note that many of the activities described in these reports may not be running in 2020/21 due to Covid-19 or other circumstances.

- [Applied Linguistics](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Classics and Ancient History](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Cultural and Media Policy Studies](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Education Studies](#)
- [Engineering](#)

Defining innovation in HE

Key terms: Innovation, Enterprise, Entrepreneurship, Creativity

(Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education: Guidance for UK Higher Education Providers, QAA 2018)

Depending on context, students can engage with innovation through the following activities:

- Research-led teaching
- Interdisciplinarity
- Innovative pedagogy
- Student-led projects
- Group projects
- Work-based learning
- Problem- and challenge-based learning
- Commercial awareness
- Market research
- Communication skills

[\(See more details about each category on our website\)](#)

Relationships with departments

Improved promotional communications in 2019

- Mailing list of sympathetic colleagues across departments
- Good will built up through consistent, high-quality provision for students

Student Innovation project in 2020

- Personalised emails to colleagues
- In-depth conversations and email correspondence
- Constructive dialogue about content and structure of reports
- Improved mutual awareness
- Scope for future collaborations

Integration with institutional strategy

The Innovation Strategy aligns with other high-level priorities, and underlines how academic departments are fulfilling (or could fulfil) these priorities.

Employability Strategy

- Need for students to develop and articulate transferable and authentic skills
- Problem- and challenge-based learning offer an accessible ‘way in’
- Social problems and sustainability are engaging for a wide range of students

Education Strategy

Four priorities are a natural fit with innovation:

1. Disciplinary excellence
2. Interdisciplinarity
3. Student research
4. Internationalisation

Cultural challenges

Academics not always sympathetic to discourse of enterprise or employability

- Suspicious of ‘marketing speak’
- Wary of neoliberal values encroaching on academic freedom and integrity
- Concerned for student experience and welfare

However, it is crucial to engage with them

- They are valued colleagues with a strong investment in education
- They are responsible for popular and innovative teaching and learning activities
- The Innovation Strategy needs to include them and their perspectives

Next Steps

- Establishment of [Warwick Innovation Network](#)
- Dynamic online resource to support Innovation Strategy
- Showcase of good practice to foster cross-departmental dialogue
- An innovative approach to teaching and learning in the wake of Covid-19

Get in touch...

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Learn more about the [Warwick Innovation Network](#)