



TERTIARY EDUCATION FUTURES **ROUNDTABLE 3: BROADER PROVIDERS**

Date & Time: Wednesday 30 June 2021, 15:30 to 17:00

Co-Chairs: Professor Anne Anderson FRSE & Dr Sandro Carnicelli (Young Academy of Scotland)

Zoom Meeting ID: 898 0050 4973

Password: 195138

Direct Link to Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89800504973?pwd=WFpjTnNWQVpVenhpOCsxWlVBaThXUT09>

Thank you very much for confirming your attendance for this event. We look forward to welcoming you and hearing your thoughts.

Any personal data that is submitted to the RSE will be stored and processed in accordance with the RSE's Privacy Policy. Please note the roundtable will adhere to Chatham House Rule.

If you have any accessibility requirements that we can support you with then please get in touch with the Public Engagement team (public_engagement@therse.org.uk).

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and housekeeping (**10 MINUTES**):
 - a. Project background
 - b. Roundtable aims
 - c. Introductions
2. Part A: Facilitated discussion: current context (**25-35 MINUTES**)
3. Part B: Facilitated discussion: looking to 2050 and beyond (**25-35 MINUTES**)
4. Reflection and next steps (**10 MINUTES**)

CONTEXT:

Tertiary education is changing. Alongside a long-running trend towards greater participation in higher education from the 1970s onwards, the last five to ten years have seen a number of significant developments impacting on the tertiary education system in Scotland. These have included a range of connected initiatives from the Scottish Government around skills, widening access, and the learner journey; changes in the delivery landscape, including the emergence of

regional colleges and the creation of colleges of scale; and new forms of delivery including graduate apprenticeships, online learning, and stronger partnerships between colleges and universities. At the same time, wider changes in the economy, society, technology, and the political context have required colleges and universities to continually adapt to shifting expectations and conditions.

Against that backdrop, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the RSE Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) are undertaking a major project on Tertiary Education Futures. **The work aims to stimulate a wide-reaching debate about tertiary education, generating new insights and ideas to inform future policy and practice.** The project seeks to capture a broad range of views and perspectives. In particular, we want to provide opportunities for practitioners, learners, and the wider public to join the conversation and share their experiences, ideas, and ambitions for the future of tertiary education in Scotland.

AIM:

With the focus on facilitating dialogue and debate, **the backbone of the project will be a series of roundtables with participants from across Scotland** organised and facilitated by RSE and YAS.

Our first roundtable looked at the lived experiences of current learners. Our second brought together current college and university staff inhabiting a variety of roles. This is the third of these roundtables and its focus will be on **broader providers of tertiary education** (i.e. those that exist outwith our traditional conceptions of college and university). **We are interested in learning about how your sector fits into Scotland's tertiary education landscape and civil society and how you foresee your sector changing over the coming decades.** The findings from this roundtable will provide valuable real-world data that will be used to inform further engagement work, refine project priorities, and develop key recommendations.

All outputs from the roundtable will be shared with participants and their institutions.

WHAT DOES TERTIARY EDUCATION COMPRISE?

UNESCO define tertiary education as 'building on secondary education by providing learning opportunities in specialist fields of education. It aims at a high level of complexity and specialisation. Tertiary education includes what is commonly known as an academic education but also includes advanced vocational or professional education.'

The World Bank states that higher education, also known as tertiary education in some countries, refers to all post school education including both public and private universities, colleges, technical training institutes, and vocational schools.

However, these may be considered too narrow a definition, and another way of approaching this is to think of the key features which may include:

- a non-compulsory dimension;
- differences in financial support;
- different types of outcomes which may (or may not) result in degrees, diplomas, certificates, and so on; and
- the extent to which TE can also be seen as a form of lifelong learning.

There is also a need to consider the changes that have taken place within schools, where Scotland's [Developing the Young Workforce](#) programme has placed an enhanced emphasis on vocational learning, where the senior phase (S4-S6) aims to offer a wider range of opportunities and

qualifications than previously, and where the location of the learning may be school, college, the workplace, or elsewhere.

Employers also provide many courses themselves or through training organisations which are not part of the college or university sectors.

These definitions and reflections illustrate that this is a complex and contested area!

DISCUSSION PROMPTS:

Below are some suggested prompts to consider ahead of the discussion. In order to foster debate, we refer to 'you/your' in the collective sense (i.e. non-college/non-university providers considered as a whole). However, we will also welcome more sector-specific reflections where appropriate.

1. Do you consider your sectors to be a form of tertiary education?
2. What sort of educational experience are you providing? Is the emphasis on knowledge gain and/or skills development, or on something else? What destinations are you preparing learners for?
3. What types of learners do you tend to attract? What are their motivations for pursuing this type of learning?
4. What does your sector offer that other tertiary bodies do not or cannot offer?
5. What is your relationship with other players in the tertiary education space (e.g. colleges and universities), employers, and wider society? How do they view or value the education you provide? Do you see this relationship changing in the future?
6. Looking to the future, how will your sector serve Scotland and society? Do you foresee a growing demand for what you have to offer?

Note: Although the immediate impact of COVID-19 on tertiary education has been undeniable, our project is focused on the future of the tertiary system.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The TEF project sits within a wider landscape of critical and investigative work that has looked at the tertiary education sector in the UK and/or Scotland. These studies have helped to inform our project's objectives to ensure they make an added-value contribution to the national discussion. While not required reading for the purposes of this roundtable, we nonetheless encourage you to consider these publications and their findings if you have not already encountered them as they will serve to situate today's discussions within a wider context.

[Review of the coherent provision and sustainability](#) (Scottish Funding Council)

Scottish Affairs Committee [inquiry into universities and Scotland](#) (Scottish Affairs Committee)

[Towards a robust, resilient wellbeing economy for Scotland](#) (Advisory Group on Economic Recovery)

The College of the Future ([UK-Wide Final Report](#); [Scotland-specific report](#)) (Independent Commission on the College of the Future)

[Cumberford-Little Report - One Tertiary System: Agile, Collaborative, Inclusive](#) (Audrey Cumberford and Paul Little)

[Muscatelli Report - Driving Innovation in Scotland: A National Mission](#) (Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli)

PARTICIPANTS:

Representatives:

Robert Baxter	An Fiosaiche Consulting Ltd
Jim Brown	ESP Scotland
Allan Colquhoun	Leonardo
Tony Coultas	Skills Development Scotland
Mark Dames	BT
John Doran	Digital Marketing Institute
James King	Scottish Prison Service
Tina Livingston	TwoBridge Consultancy
Ray McCowan	Workers' Educational Association (WEA) Scotland
Martin McGuire	WorldSkills
Stuart McKenna	Scottish Training Federation
Nigel Patterson	University of the Highlands and Islands
Aileen Ponton	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership

Roundtable chairs:

Professor Anne Anderson FRSE, Chair of Tertiary Education Futures working group
Dr Sandro Carnicelli, Young Academy of Scotland

Additional facilitators:

Dr Keir Bloomer FRSE, Deputy Chair of Tertiary Education Futures working group
William Hardie, Policy Advice Manager, Royal Society of Edinburgh
Daria Tuhtar, Policy Advice Officer, Royal Society of Edinburgh and Tertiary Education Futures secretary

JOINING THE MEETING:

- Please log into the meeting waiting room at 15:25 so that names can be checked for security reasons. Please be prepared to wait for approximately five minutes.
- Please ensure the name you use to sign into this meeting clearly identifies you. If you regularly use a Zoom account, please double-check your name is clear before entering the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION:

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the roundtable coordinator, Daria Tuhtar, at dtuhtar@these.org.uk.