



HEA Forward- Look Forum

Skills, Employability and the Post-Secondary Sector: What is the Role for Higher Education?

8.15am–2pm, Wednesday 11th
November 2015

Auditorium, St. Patrick's College,
Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

A renewed focus on quality to support student outcomes in the labour market requires a whole-of-system approach that is driven first and foremost by student needs and a shared commitment to foster continued economic growth and make a positive impact in the lives of every Ontarian

Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (2015)

The HEA Forward-Look Forum series provides opportunities for the Irish higher education community to come together and engage in forward-looking and disruptive thinking about the future of the sector that is fully cognisant of the global context within which Irish higher education operates.

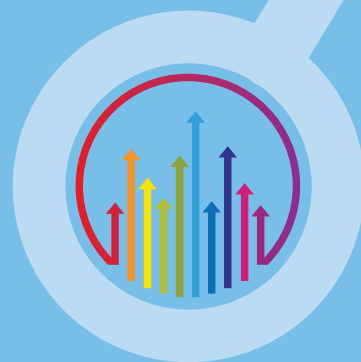
The fourth Forum, 'Skills, Employability and the Post-Secondary Sector: What is the Role for Higher Education?', will examine the role of higher education in responding to the demand for graduates, in addressing skills shortages in the short-term, and in meeting societal and labour-market requirements in the long-term.

Public debate often takes different forms across different countries, but common concerns include: new graduates lack the skills that employers need; too many graduates study the wrong subjects for available jobs; some graduates are stuck in low-skilled jobs or under-employed; and graduates often lack the appropriate balance between practical skills, learning facts and critical thinking. Labour-market relevance and graduate-outcomes are a key issue for the higher education sector and for society: if graduates are not acquiring skills which are valued in the labour-market there is an opportunity-cost.

At the same time, there is an imperative to increase accessibility to post-secondary education and to more fully embrace lifelong learning because 'learning throughout life is a continuum'. Do we require much greater cohesion across the entire system in order to ensure better co-ordination between education and the labour-market while preparing an actively engaged citizenship?

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Programme

8.15 Registration and Refreshments

9.00 Opening Remarks: Professor Daire Keogh (President, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra) and **Tom Boland** (Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority)

9.15 MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND FOR THE LABOUR MARKET

Chair: Tom Boland (Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority)

Keynote speaker: Amy Laitinen (Director for Higher Education, New America)

Respondent: Professor Seamus McGuinness (Research Professor, Economic and Social Research Institute)

Discussants: Professor Andrew Deeks (President, University College Dublin)

Richard Eardley (Managing Director, Hays Ireland)

Una Halligan (Chair, Expert Group on Future Skills Needs)

Professor Brian Norton (President, Dublin Institute of Technology)

11.00 Break

11.20 EMBRACING A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION APPROACH

Chair: Mary Doyle (Deputy Secretary, Department of Education and Skills)

Keynote speaker: Professor Ewart Keep (Chair in Education, Training and Skills and Director of the Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance, University of Oxford)

Respondent: Dr. Mary-Liz Trant (Executive Director, Skills Development, SOLAS)

Discussants: Professor Peter Clinch (Chair, Competitiveness Council of Ireland, and Jean Monnet Chair of European Economic Integration and Professor of Public Policy, University College Dublin)

Professor Patrick Clancy (Emeritus Professor, School of Sociology, University College Dublin)

Bob Savage (Vice President and Managing Director, EMC Ireland)

Jacinta Stewart (Chief Executive, City of Dublin Education and Training Board)

1.15–2.00 Lunch
