

Background

- Perception of English degrees against key workplace skills (Belfiore, 2015).
- Using alumni stories and experiences as career development tools.
- Semi-structured interviews with 21 QUB English alumni.

Research Questions

- Challenges faced during initial career transition from university to workplace.
- Relevance of degree skills to careers.
- What support would have helped support transition.

Degree skills Evaluation

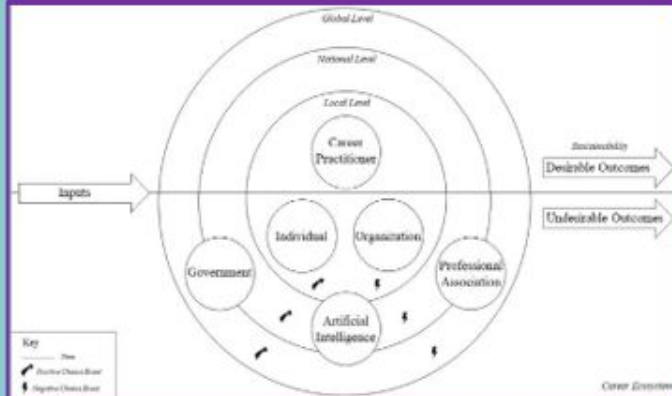
Skills used:

- Writing skills
- Interpersonal communication
- Self-efficacy and independence
- Cognitive and creative confidence
- Research skills

Skills missing:

- Groupwork
- Business acumen
- Using different writing styles
- Relevant labour market information
- Knowing options with degree

Sustainable Career Ecosystem Theory



“ It’s the analytical skills, reading between the lines, and understanding different perspectives, an English degree trains you how to think and communicate.
QUB English Alumna ”

Recommendations

Real-world projects

Case studies and workshops

Challenging degree perceptions

Alumni guest lectures

Mentorship programmes

Developing alumni networks

Feeling unprepared

Career anxiety

Lack of direction

Lack of support

Challenges of Transition

No relevant work experience

Employer perception of degree

No careers engagement

Missing key skills