

Entrepreneurship and universities: a bigger perspective

How does entrepreneurial thinking help mobilise positive economic, social, political and human change? How can entrepreneurship create value from innovation in our increasingly complex world? What can we do to create an atmosphere where entrepreneurial action thrives?

These are the big questions that **LSE Entrepreneurship** is going to explore through its courses, lectures, networking opportunities and here, on our new blog.

Entrepreneurship and universities are often regarded as unnatural bedfellows: Richard Branson famously left school at 16; **PayPal** co-founder Peter Thiel offers scholarships *not* to go to university; Mark Zuckerberg never graduated from Harvard. Popular wisdom says that entrepreneurs are the do-ers of the world, whereas what goes on at the universities is merely the thinking.



Of course this isn't true. Entrepreneurship plays a massive part at many universities. Business schools provide courses designed to develop students' entrepreneurial skills, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Students studying management, finance, accounting and economics are all likely to take or have the option of taking modules that include some aspect of entrepreneurship. Outside of the classroom, offerings like LSE Careers' Generate programme provide the practical support that student entrepreneurs need to develop their ideas into businesses: funding competitions, office space, legal advice and pitching tips, to name just a few things.

But, following the popular perception, these activities also focus very much on the 'doing' side of entrepreneurship. This is no bad thing in itself, but it has traditionally left little space to consider the big ideas around entrepreneurship, like the questions above. The focus has been on the 'micro', thinking about individuals and their businesses, rather than the 'macro', understanding how entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial thinking operates as a global force for change.

LSE Entrepreneurship is a place for this larger discussion. Our conversationalists will include voices from different professional backgrounds, from tech CEOs to policy-makers and social entrepreneurs, and from different academic specialists across the social sciences. Through these debates we hope that people will come to understand not only how entrepreneurship can drive change, but also how people can come to affect it.

Our blog is our online forum for continuing the conversations we start at our courses and events, and starting new ones. Comments will always be open, and we want to know what you think about what is written. Like all our activities, we would like different voices and perspectives to contribute. If you would like to write a post please submit your ideas, along with a bio to entrepreneurship@lse.ac.uk.

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