Dr Paul Redmond, Director of Student Experience and Enhancement, University of Liverpool

Dr Paul Redmond, author, keynote speaker, employment guru, is one of the UK’s leading experts on generational change and the future of work. As one of the UK’s leading experts on employment markets, the impact of artificial intelligence and the changing world of work, Paul has presented at hundreds of conferences and events around the world. In addition to writing regularly for national newspapers and other publications, he is a frequent guest on both radio and TV, appearing on numerous BBC and independent news and current affairs programmes.

As the Director of Student Experience and Enhancement at the University of Liverpool, Paul has held visiting lectureships at various other leading universities. Paul’s research into ‘Generation Y’ (aka ‘Millennials’) and their ‘Helicopter Parents’ has garnered him praise and respect from a range of national and international organisations, for which he provides consultancy on how to manage, motivate and engage with today’s five working generations.

Paul is the author of numerous books, reports and studies, including the best-selling ‘The Graduate Jobs Formula.’ In recognition of his writing and research, in 2010 Paul was awarded a Fellowship of the British Royal Society of Arts.

Bob Athwal, Global Lead Early Careers – Senior Talent Manager, Skyscanner & Co-Founder Global Career Services Summit

Bob is an award winning industry expert, has an undergraduate degree in Mathematical Modelling, an Executive MBA and is nearing completion of his PhD in Social Mobility and the Graduate Labour Market. Bob began his career as Students Union President. After this Bob worked for companies such as Tesco, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and graduate-jobs.com, RWE npower, University of Leicester and Skyscanner. Bob is a regular international conference speaker and co-author of the first book in the UK written on Graduate Recruitment and Development.
Elaine Boyes, Executive Director, Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services

Elaine Boyes is the Executive Director of Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS). Elaine joined AGCAS in 2016, following a short stint in higher education as Head of External Relations for the Hull York Medical School. Prior to this, she held leadership roles in professional membership organisations for over 12 years, running the Nuclear Institute, the professional body for the nuclear sector, and as Head of Publishing at the British Computer Society (BCS). She has previously been a Trustee of the Science Council and a Director of the Association of Professional and Learned Society Publishers (ALPSP).

Gavin Connell, Co-Chair, Association of Higher Education Careers Services

Gavin Connell is Head of Careers at the Cooperative Education & Careers Division, University of Limerick. Gavin is masters qualified in Work and Organisational Behaviour with a primary degree in Human Resources. He has 20 years’ industry experience in the areas of manufacturing, process engineering, learning & development, recruitment and HR in Ireland and also across the EMEA region.

Gavin currently supports students in developing employability skills and implementing their career plans, and is also responsible for engaging employers on all matters of graduate recruitment and employability. A significant element of this role is to influence policy formulation and planning within the university on issues relating to career development/employability as well as graduate employment. He holds a Level A/B Psychological Society qualification in Psychometric testing/Profiling and is also MBTI/EQi and Strengths-based coaching certified.

Gavin is currently the co-chair of the Association of Higher Education Careers Services (AHECS) in Ireland.

Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive, Institute of Student Employers

Stephen was appointed Chief Executive of the ISE in June 2013. Prior to joining the ISE, he was Head of Graduate Recruitment UK & Ireland at EY. Stephen has extensive experience in the recruitment and development of students, both graduates and school leavers. In addition to his current role, Stephen sits on several steering groups related to higher education and is a trustee of Ashorne Hill Management College. In 2019 he was appointed as a special advisor to Dame Shirley Pearce’s TEF review. He has presented to various committees in the Houses of Parliament and often appears in national and local media.
Trevor Johnston, Co-Chair, Association of Higher Education Careers Services

Trevor Johnston is the Head of Careers, Employability & Skills at Queens University with responsibility for strategic planning and leadership of the Service in accordance with the University Corporate plan with particular focus on enhancing the employability of Queen’s students. Trevor is also Co-Chair of AHECS, the Association of Higher Education Careers Services in Ireland.

Prior to joining Queen’s Trevor held a range of private sector roles as UK Business Development Manager for National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies and Regional Manager for Northern Ireland with SummitSkills, a Sector Skills Council with responsibility for representing employers. He has previously led the development of an All-Ireland Interreg Funded Renewable Energy Installer Academy establishing regional training provision for a range of renewable energy technologies and an Ireland wide training, certification and quality inspection scheme for renewable energy installers.

Jonathan Kwan, Executive Director, South East Asian Association of Graduate Employers

With close to 20 years of experience as a career coach and management consultant, Jon is the Executive Director of the South East Asian Association of Graduate Employers (SEAAGE), and an external career advisor to the world’s top business schools including Cambridge (Judge), HKUST, INSEAD & NUS. Originally from Toronto, Jon spent 8 years in the Consulting practice of one of the largest professional services firms in the world, most recently with their Global Future of Work Centre of Excellence. Currently, he’s fascinated by the idea of applying Design Thinking principles to individuals in their careers. Having lived & worked on 3 continents, he is now based in Singapore.

Marc Lintern, President, Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services

Marc is President of AGCAS (Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services), the UK’s expert membership organisation for higher education career development and graduate employment professionals. He is also Director of Student Experience at Newcastle University, a role which includes managing the University’s award winning Careers Service. Having joined Newcastle University in 2013, Marc’s experience over twenty years includes: embedding employability across institutions, increasing student placement opportunities, developing employability awards, developing programmes to increase social mobility and raise career expectations, and helping students recognise that starting their own business can be a viable career option.
Alan McAlpine, Executive, Career Industry Council of Australia

Alan is the Associate Director, Student Success at QUT. He leads five portfolio areas that oversee six multidisciplinary teams in each of the 6 QUT faculties. The embedded teams provide support in career development, language and learning and STEM, with the primary aim of embedding support into curriculum while also addressing ongoing retention challenges. Prior to this role Alan managed the Careers and Employment Service for over ten years. He is a longstanding Management Committee member of the National Association of Graduate Career Advisory Services (NAGCAS) and was President from 2010 until 2014. He is a member of the CICA executive and also sits on the board of Graduate Careers Australia. Alan has over 20 years experience in the career development field with the last 15 being in HE sector. During that time he was part of three citation awards from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). He is a tragic 70’s music rock lover and plays his guitar (very badly).

Cathy Sims, Executive Director, South African Graduate Employers Association

Cathy is the founding member and Executive Director of the South African Graduate Employers Association. Her previous experience includes HR Manager for leading international management consulting firm, Accenture and the University of Cape Town as Head of Employer Relations/Deputy Director of Careers.

Shawn VanDerziel, Executive Director, National Association of Colleges and Employers

As executive director of NACE, Shawn VanDerziel leads the association of 13,500+ professionals at more than 3,100 employing organizations and educational institutions engaged in the career development and employment of college students and alumni. Prior to joining the NACE staff, Shawn was with the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago for 23 years, where he most recently served as chief human resources officer and as chief of staff. His earlier roles included a corporate recruiting position with Norrell Corporation and a position in higher education as associate director of student enrolment at National Louis University.