



ABS EXTERNAL POLICY

The Association of Business Schools (ABS) is the representative body and authoritative voice for all the business schools of UK universities, higher education institutions and independent management colleges. ABS seeks to promote the interests of its members and the business and management education, training, research and development they provide, nationally and internationally, so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of management, entrepreneurship and leadership for the benefit of society at large.

1. INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

ABS is a UK membership organisation that encourages an international outlook.

ABS is committed to creating close and sustainable links with partners internationally to enhance the student experience, share good practice and create global corporate citizens.

ABS supports the recruitment of international students and faculty.

ABS seeks to internationalise the curriculum and encourage research across national borders.

2. NATIONAL POLICY

The faculties, schools and departments of business and management which are ABS members are more diverse than is generally understood by external stakeholders. This diversity is reflected in many areas including: mission, strategy, autonomy, target markets, the levels and modes of education on offer, the subject or sector focus and research interests.

ABS encourages this diversity as a very positive aspect of the UK business school community and recognises that there is no one best model nor does one-size fit all.

ABS can demonstrate positive links between services which business schools provide and the improved performance of individuals and organisations that use them.

UK business schools are consistently rated as being among the best in the world; they develop capabilities in management, leadership and entrepreneurship and make a significant contribution to the competitiveness of the UK's economy.

3. LEARNING, TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Given the diversity of missions existing in business schools,

ABS actively promotes evidence informed approaches for effective and innovative practice in learning and teaching.

ABS supports innovative and flexible delivery methods in learning, teaching and assessment and access to business and management education for all students and wider external communities.

ABS is committed to maximising the value of the Higher Education Academy subject centre for business, management, accountancy and finance (BMAF) to the business school sector at large, in particular supporting leadership development programmes and surveys.

4. RESEARCH

ABS supports diversity in research, including scholarly activity to maintain the currency of knowledge, practice-based interventions and the derivation of theory.

ABS supports the assessment of research excellence by peer review conducted through existing channels of the scholarly community.

ABS encourages capacity building in research, the sustainability of AIM, BAM and other research organisations, and widening access to research funding and capacity building across member institutions.

ABS values regional and other collaborative research activity and knowledge transfer within and between institutions and advocates the availability of sufficient funding to support these activities.

5. MANAGEMENT, ORGANISATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ABS is committed to outreach to enhance management, organisation and community development and what the funding councils term 'third stream' activities.

ABS is strongly committed to continuing professional development and high quality executive education.

ABS fully supports entrepreneurship in the sector and the creation of appropriate scholarships to support the development of entrepreneurs.

ABS supports the enhancement of capabilities in all types of organisations through consultancy, applied research, knowledge transfer and advice.

6. QUALITY

Business schools value regulatory and voluntary quality improvement and the work of accreditation bodies.

ABS works actively with national and international quality assurance and accreditation agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their criteria and processes for the benefit of all relevant stakeholders.

ABS informs, updates and refreshes its members by sharing knowledge and experience in relevant accreditation policies and procedures.

ABS believes national quality assurance and accreditation agencies should recognise (and give exemption) to schools with proven international accreditation.

7. STAFFING

The recruitment, development and retention of high quality business school staff are vital for ABS members.

ABS has pioneered a series of development programmes designed to build management, leadership and entrepreneurial capacity in business schools.

ABS collects and synthesizes HESA, HEFCE and other data to improve the targeting of existing funds and to create additional funding opportunities that help schools maintain an appropriate quantity and quality of staff.

ABS monitors regional, national and international labour market trends to identify current and future recruitment needs for members.

8. FUNDING

Business schools operate in a complex and increasingly diverse funding context.

ABS lobbies central government and other sources of funding to increase the total funding available and it encourages ABS members to share knowledge of funding arrangements within higher education institutions.

ABS is in favour of business schools operating with the appropriate level of autonomy and financial resources in order to achieve their individual missions.

ABS advocates that funding should provide wide access and broaden participation for individuals and organisations for the benefit of society at large.

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