

## **QAA Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Group meet for the first time**

For some time the BMAF Entrepreneurial Learning Special Interest Group has been calling for clarity in terms of quality issues in enterprise related education. Culminating in its meeting at Leeds Metropolitan University last year, the group led negotiations with QAA as to how this might be best achieved.

As a direct result of that event and consultations / joint events with other partners, Friday 11th February became a landmark day for enterprise and entrepreneurship education. Birmingham City Business School hosted the Quality Assurance Agency's first meeting of the new Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Group, with a remit to discuss possible ways forward.

Recognition by QAA is important, as they are tasked to guide UK universities and colleges on ways to maintain their academic standards and quality. Importantly, they publish guidelines to help UK universities and colleges develop effective systems to ensure students have the best learning experience possible, and very little is available to help enterprise education specialists. With the development of the group, enterprise and entrepreneurship educators now have a direct contribution to make to UK education standards development, as the expert group is tasked with developing guidance for institutions to foster and develop students' skills in enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Laura Bellingham of the QAA said that, "Bringing together expert bodies in this area will be key to reaching a consensus on how best institutions can support and encourage an enterprising and entrepreneurial spirit in today's students".

## **QAA Graduate Enterprise and Entrepreneurship group members**

- Laura Bellingham, QAA Development and Enhancement Group
- Hushpreet Dhaliwal, National Consortium of University Entrepreneurs
- Harry Matlay, Birmingham City University
- Jo Mills, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge
- Andy Penaluna, Swansea Metropolitan University / Higher Education Academy – Business Management Accountancy and Finance / Enterprise Educators UK (Chair)
- Alison Price, National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship
- David Rae, University of Lincoln / Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Gareth Trainer, Newcastle University / Association of Careers Advisory Services
- Leigh Sear, UK Sector Skills Body for Enterprise - SFEDI
- Jonathan Slack, Association of Business Schools
- Kelly Smith, University of Huddersfield / Enterprise Educators UK
- Matt Smith, National Consortium of University Entrepreneurs