Annex 15

University Centre Shrewsbury working with employers to create course content

University Centre Shrewsbury (UCS), part of the University of Chester, received funding from the Institute of Coding to develop a postgraduate programme in Data Science. As part of the development work UCS worked with a consortium of Shropshire employers whose input contributed to some of the key programme content requirements and the attributes graduates would need to have. This led to not only to a clear indication of the level of programming required to meet the needs of employers but also features such as an Ethics of Data Science module, and an Enterprise Development module, which introduces the students to enterprise and entrepreneurship, approaches to innovation and how to develop a business idea through planning and start up. The module is then assessed through the development and presentation of a new business idea in data science.

Local employers remained engaged with the programme over the development period and were able to provide feedback on the proposed curriculum and assessments, and now the programme is running can offer real world input for students. The collaborative development approach between employers and UCS has led to employment opportunities within Shropshire for students on the programme, demonstrating the value of this way of working.

Professor Paul Johnson, Deputy Provost – University of Chester and Head of University Centre Shrewsbury.