

# **Building Community and Employer Links to aid flexible learning**

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# University of Leicester

- **Most socially inclusive of Britain's top 20 universities**
- **Institute of Lifelong Learning**
- **9000 DL students and 1500 part-time students**
- **Mainly postgraduate**
- **Our approach to distance learning**
- **New markets and future developments**
- **Resourcing distance learning**

# Employer Engagement

- **HEFCE SDF co-funding pilot**
- **Importance of employer links**
- **Employer vs employee development**
- **Loans vs employer sponsorship**
- **A bespoke employer offer?**
- **Internal challenges - culture and systems**

# Public and Community Engagement

- **Public perceptions of universities**
- **Engagement and teaching**
- **Engagement and research**
- **Discovery, transmission and application of knowledge**
- **The role of universities in their communities**

# **Future direction of travel?**

- **Definitions of flexible learning**
- **Partnerships and new providers**
- **Fees, funding and the 'marketplace'**
- **Incentives**
- **Employability and value of a degree**
- **The era of 'the student experience'**
- **What are universities for?**

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**Universities Association for Lifelong Learning**

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