ILLUMINARE

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Illuminare Executive Education

Specialists in University-Certified Executive Education, Academic Programme Development and Consultancy Services

Empowering Higher Education Institutions with Bespoke Academic Solutions and Partnerships

Welcome

At Illuminare Executive Education, we are dedicated to supporting higher education institutions by offering university-certified executive education, academic programme development, consultancy and strategic partnerships. Our aim is to empower universities to meet market demands, expand their portfolios and deliver education that is both academically rigorous and industry relevant.

Founded by professionals with significant leadership experience in UK higher education institutions (HEIs), we understand first-hand the challenges universities face today. Now operating independently in the private sector, we provide expert support as and when you need it. This enables institutions to access high-level expertise without the long-term financial commitment of hiring permanent staff.

Our bespoke academic services-ranging from programme design and postgraduate recruitment to external examiner roles and consultancy-are tailored to meet the evolving needs of your institution. We work closely with universities to ensure they are well-positioned to respond quickly to new opportunities, helping them strengthen both their academic and executive education offerings.

In addition to our academic services, we offer corporate training programmes aimed to equip leaders and professionals with the skills to excel in today's complex, transnational business environment. Our combined focus on executive education and academic partnerships ensures that we deliver solutions aligned with your strategic goals.

We look forward to partnering with you to enhance your institution's offerings and expand its global reach.

Warm regards,
Sarah Brennand & Stephen Smith
Co-Owners, Illuminare Executive Education

Sarah Brennand
BSc (Hons), PGCHE, MBA, FHEA

Stephen Smith
BA (Hons), MA, AFHEA, FPC

About us

Illuminare Executive Education is a UK-based provider of university-certified executive education, academic services, training and consultancy. We specialise in helping higher education institutions deliver innovative, industry-aligned academic programmes. With our deep understanding of HEIs, gained from working in senior leadership roles, we are well-placed to provide the strategic and practical support universities need, exactly when they need it.

What sets us apart is our ability to combine academic rigour with real-world business expertise and experience. We work as an extension of your team, helping you deliver high-quality, relevant educational experiences without the need for ongoing staff investment.

Our team has extensive expertise in:

- Academic programme development, validation and delivery
- Transnational education and international university partnerships
- Postgraduate recruitment
- Leadership coaching and executive education

We create tailored solutions that address the specific challenges faced by higher education institutions, ensuring that your programmes and partnerships stay competitive.

Our Values

Our values drive everything we do:

Excellence

We are committed to delivering the highest-quality services that make a lasting impact on your institution, from education and training, to coaching and consultancy.

Integrity

We build long-term relationships based on trust, transparency and mutual respect.

Agility

We stay flexible and responsive to the evolving needs of our clients, ensuring that our programmes remain relevant.

Collaboration

We partner with our clients to co-create custom solutions that deliver real business results.

Our Academic Services

- Subcontracted Executive Education and Corporate Training
- Academic Programme Design and Authoring
- HEI Leadership Training and Coaching
- Postgraduate Recruitment
- HE Partnerships
- Consultancy
- Student Placements with Industry
- External Panel Member Roles
- External Examiner Roles

Subcontracted Executive Education and Corporate Training

We understand that universities offering executive education and corporate training often face challenges in delivering these programmes due to limited time or resources. To help address these demands, we provide high-quality, university-certified executive education and corporate short courses, designed to be delivered on behalf of your institution.

Our programmes focus on leadership development, organisational growth, and equipping professionals with the skills they need to excel. Whether you require bespoke short courses for corporate clients or comprehensive executive education programmes, we work closely with your institution to ensure our offerings align seamlessly with your strategic goals.

In addition to designing and delivering leadership and organisational growth programmes, we also develop programmes incorporating recognised certifications such as CPD, CMI, and ILM. These certifications ensure our programmes meet industry standards and provide the professional recognition often required or highly valued in corporate markets.

By subcontracting these services to us, universities can expand their portfolios, offering timely and relevant programmes that meet the needs of their clients while upholding the highest standards of quality and professionalism.

Academic Programme Design and Authoring

We specialise in the complete design and development of degree programmes across a wide range of disciplines, including Business, Finance, Law and Health. Whether you are creating new offerings or revising existing curricula through portfolio reviews or enhancements, we will ensure that your programmes remain competitive, aligned with quality standards, and relevant to the ever-evolving industry landscape.

Our team has extensive experience in higher education, having written undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, module specifications, handbooks, and teaching materials for face-to-face and online delivery. We understand the complexities involved in content creation, from navigating approval processes to ensuring compliance with educational standards. We are equipped to support you from the initial design phase through to full programme validation, delivering industry-aligned education that is ready for immediate implementation.

HEI Leadership Training and Coaching

We provide tailored training and coaching programmes for senior leaders and academics, focusing on leadership, communication and resilience. These sessions are designed to enable your team to build the skills and resilience needed to thrive in the ever-evolving academic and educational landscape, responding effectively to institutional challenges.

Postgraduate Recruitment

Enhancing brand impact and expanding global reach are essential to maintaining competitive advantage and financially security. We understand that postgraduate recruitment is a critical pipeline for sustained growth and therefore offer recruitment services that connect higher education institutions with prospective students.

Leveraging our extensive network and expertise, we help attract high-calibre students to your postgraduate programmes, ensuring the talent needed to drive future academic success.

HE Partnerships

Are you a higher education institution seeking to expand your UK or TNE Partner Portfolio? Or perhaps an FE institution looking for franchise, validation or top-up opportunities? We help identify and facilitate strategic partnerships that drive innovation and improve educational outcomes. By connecting institutions with like-minded and value-aligned partners, we can source and strengthen your opportunity for growth.

Consultancy

We offer strategic advice and practical solutions to enhance the quality of education at your institution. Our consultancy services cover competitor analysis, content development, regulatory compliance, strategy development and quality assurance. We know how crucial it is to align with national and international standards while navigating complex regulatory environments.

Student Placements with Industry

We understand the increasing demand for real-world experience and the importance of providing your students with industry placement opportunities. These placements not only enhance applied learning and student employability but also help your institution build valuable connections with businesses and industries. With most students now seeking or requiring placement opportunities, we can support your institution in establishing and managing a successful placement programme.

From introducing new business partners and industry placement opportunities to overseeing the entire process, including assessments, student check-ins and programme management, we offer a comprehensive solution tailored to your needs. Our goal is to help strengthen your market positioning while ensuring your students benefit from high-quality placements.

External Panel Member Roles

We provide experienced external panel members for programme validation and approval events.

These professionals contribute critical insights, ensuring your programmes meet the highest standards of quality assurance. Our team brings a deep understanding of the regulatory requirements, ensuring you meet your institutional timelines.

External Examiner Roles

External examiner roles are essential but often difficult to source quickly. Our network of qualified external examiners ensures objectivity and rigour in your quality and assessment processes, maintaining the academic integrity and fairness of your institution's qualifications.

We understand how essential it is to respond promptly to external examiner needs while preserving high academic standards.

Meet our Team

Sarah Brennand

BSc (Hons), PGCHE, MBA, FHEA
Managing Director & Co-Owner

Sarah is a highly accomplished leader and educator with over 18 years of experience in higher education, leadership development and executive coaching.

As the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Illuminare Executive Education, she is dedicated to delivering transformative leadership development programmes that drive growth and performance across industries. Sarah has extensive experience collaborating with clients in business, finance, technology, education, hospitality and health, where she has designed and implemented high-impact leadership development solutions.

Throughout her career, Sarah has held senior leadership positions within UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), playing a pivotal role in the design and delivery of MBA programmes and executive qualifications on a global scale.

Her work has reached leaders and professionals across the UK, Singapore, Botswana, Greece, Switzerland, Denmark, the UAE and Qatar, reinforcing her influence in shaping leadership education internationally.

In addition to her academic leadership, Sarah has founded and managed businesses in the corporate well-being, training, and education sectors. Her entrepreneurial ventures have allowed her to collaborate with a broad range of clients, delivering customised solutions that enhance individual and organisational success.

As an international trainer and Advisory Panel Member for CPD international regulation, Sarah continues to set high standards in professional development, ensuring that her contributions impact leaders worldwide.

Sarah's unique combination of academic insight, global experience, and practical business acumen makes her a driving force in leadership education. Through Illuminare Executive Education, she remains committed to empowering individuals and organisations, helping them unlock their full potential and achieve sustainable success.

Stephen Smith

BA (Hons), MA, AFHEA, FPC
Commercial Director & Co-Owner

Stephen is a seasoned business leader and educator with over 38 years of experience across corporate finance, property development, hospitality and academia.

As the Co-Founder and Commercial Director of Illuminare Executive Education, he is dedicated to empowering leaders and organisations through a range of services, including education, training, coaching and consultancy.

His extensive global experience, spanning markets in the UK, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, provides him with valuable commercial insights and a nuanced understanding of international business dynamics. This expertise enables Stephen to tailor solutions to meet the specific needs of organisations in diverse regions.

Having held senior leadership roles in UK Higher Education Institutions, Stephen has played a pivotal role in developing and delivering programs that drive growth and enhance performance for leaders worldwide.

He combines academic rigour with real-world business insights to deliver impactful services that foster organisational excellence.

Through Illuminare Executive Education, Stephen continues to help leaders and organisations unlock their full potential, equipping them with the tools to drive innovation and succeed in the global marketplace.

His passion for leadership development is reflected in his commitment to delivering transformative solutions that inspire growth and success.

Our Delivery Team

Illuminare Executive Education is an academically and practitioner-led organisation, dedicated to delivering high-quality, university-certified executive education, training and coaching programmes. Our team is composed of former deans, heads of departments from business schools and colleges, and international HEI leaders and consultants, all of whom have significant experience in the higher education sector.

With a proven track record of leading academic teams, devising strategies, writing and validating academic programmes and launching successful TNE and collaborative partnerships, our team understands the intricacies and demands of higher education institutions. We have also been instrumental in establishing robust recruitment pipelines and delivering programmes both in the UK and overseas.

Our delivery team brings together leading UK senior academics, experienced leaders, and sector specialists with over 30 years of expertise in designing and delivering programmes that align with UK Higher Education quality and regulatory standards. We have extensive experience in corporate and executive education, offering qualifications through UK university MBA programmes, executive education courses, as well as Chartered Management Institute (CMI), Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) qualifications and CPD accreditation.

In addition, we design bespoke corporate leadership and management programmes, customised to meet the specific needs of the organisations we partner with, ensuring that our training solutions deliver impactful results.

CONTACT US

To explore how Illuminare Executive Education can support your institution please contact our team:

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