

Dr Stella Mascarenhas-Keyes is a government social researcher based in the Higher Education Directorate of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Prior to joining the civil service, she worked as a university lecturer, training consultant, educational developer and social researcher. She holds a Ph.D in Social Anthropology, an M.A. in Higher and Professional Education, and a B.Sc in Psychology.

Abstract: The presentation is based on policy focussed qualitative research. The generic aim of the research is to increase the evidence base on student, graduate and academic entrepreneurship, and its specific aim is to examine such entrepreneurship among British Indians and British Chinese. The research is situated within the policy context of the UK government's aim to achieve prosperity for all and reduce the productivity gap between the UK and USA, France and Germany. The data is drawn from an analysis of government documents and about 140 interviews with students, graduates, academics, university staff, government officials and business support agencies, conducted mainly in the UK and supplemented by research in China. Examples of entrepreneurship are presented in terms of different sectors and the relevance of disciplinary study to such activity is explored. The institutional and personal facilitators of entrepreneurship are examined, including the role of enterprise education and university infrastructure support, as well as individual cultural and social capital. The competitive advantage of British Indians and British Chinese with respect to international entrepreneurship are highlighted through the analysis of some case studies. The barriers to entrepreneurship are examined in terms of the five drivers of productivity: entrepreneurship, skills, innovation, competition and investment. Recommendations for addressing these barriers are put forward.