CASE STUDY 10

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

International students as future professionals

At the University of East London, we have **17,000** students from over **135** countries studying **160** different courses. Our Centre for Student Success supports our international students with their career development. Its services include sourced placement opportunities and volunteering, mentoring with professionals, careers fairs and CV workshops. International students also benefit from an employment module and our Skills Academy, with interactive workshops that develop the confidence, attitude, knowledge and skills to enable them to achieve their career and employability goals.

However, we realise that the world of work is changing rapidly and that the skills that will set future graduates apart in the job market include soft skills, such as critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence and resilience, alongside practical skills, such as digital proficiency.

This is why we have changed our courses. Starting in September 2019, we have placed the development of these skills at the heart of every one of our degrees, counting towards students' final qualification. We call this our **Professional Fitness & Mental Wealth programme**.

As evidence of their achievements we give all our students a career passport. This digital repository is proof of students' level of mastery in each skill. Some of these skills will be validated externally, by the likes of Amazon and Microsoft, earning students an online badge, while others will be monitored and managed internally.

We have begun a ground-breaking collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS). AWS is the industry sponsor of one of our campus-based Career Zones, a physical (and digital) hub that brings together academics, students, industry and communities through shared knowledge, learning and innovation. This collaboration will also see the establishment of an industry research institute with a focus on technology-informed business skills, such as artificial intelligence and will include the launch of a cloud associate degree.

In October 2019 every student was provided with access to AWS Educate, an online platform providing self-paced learning in cloud computing skills. With the increasing demand for cloud-savvy employees, this provides an academic gateway for the next generation of IT and cloud professionals.