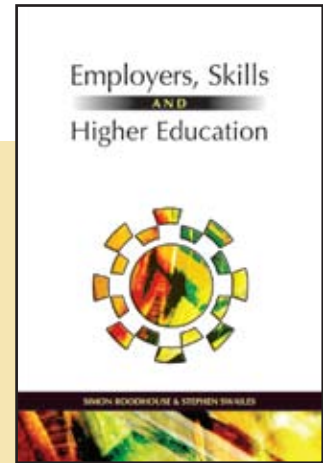




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Employers, Skills and Higher Education

Simon Roodhouse & Stephen Swailes



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Skills and standards are “at the heart of the UK government’s higher education policy”. They are also a major concern for employers, given the pivotal role that skills and standards have for economic success and global competitiveness. Whilst a great deal of policy reform and funding has been directed at promoting vocational as well as academic or general progression, there remains a number of issues that affect coherence in the vocational system.

In this timely book, Simon Roodhouse and Stephen Swailes have produced in one volume, an examination of the disparate components and developed a convincing argument for the re-examination of employer standards and national occupational standards as a shared language between employers and higher education. The book summarises much of the vocational debate over the last 5 years and draws from an extensive range of resources, including publications from the University Vocational Awards Council to address the key themes of;

- Higher education and employer engagement
- Standards in higher education
- Skills strategies and higher education
- National Vocational Qualifications: challenges and contributions
- Work force development and work based learning
- Employers and university partnerships
- National Occupational Standards and higher education
- National Occupational Standards and the professions
- Future directions

This book represents an important contribution to the growing discussion about the future of higher vocational education and the relationship with employers. It will be of much interest to academics, researchers, policy makers, employers and others who are concerned about improving and sustaining standards in higher education to better meet the needs of employers.

Simon Roodhouse is Professor of Creative Industries at the University of the Arts, London; Visiting Professor at the University of Bolton, and until recently adjunct Professor at the Queensland University of Technology. **Stephen Swailes** is Senior Lecturer in Human Resource Management at the University of Hull.

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