

Lecturer and student perceptions of employability skills at a transnational university

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Context

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT)

- First international university in Uzbekistan
- Founded in 2002
- WIUT provides internationally recognised higher education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Rationale

The embedding of employability skills into course and curriculum design is aimed at reducing the perceived shortfall in the ability of graduates to perform tasks needed in the workplace.

There is limited research on how transnational universities are addressing skills gaps at both a local and international level .

Research Questions

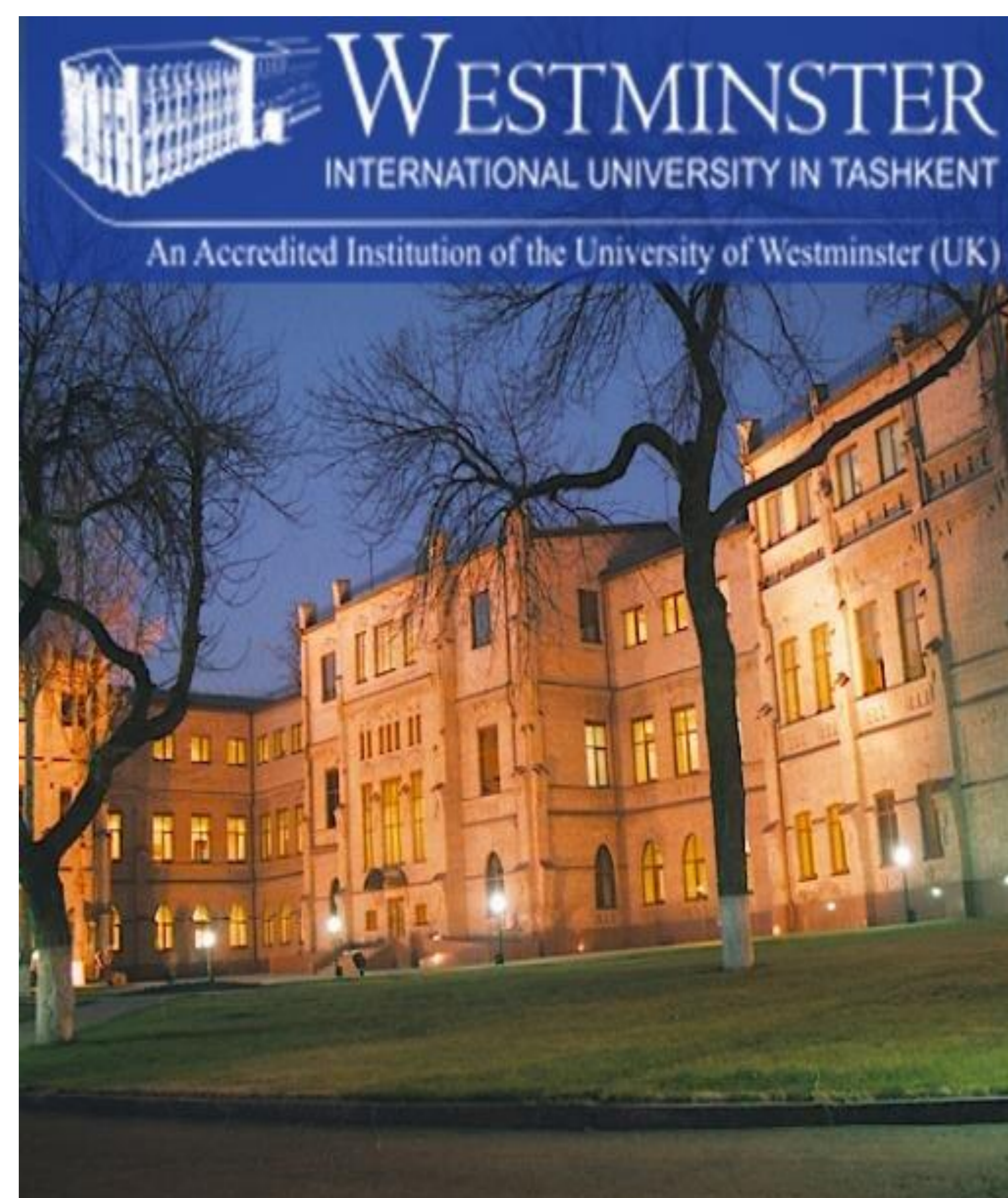
- What are WIUT lecturers' perceptions of desirable employability skills?
- How is the development of these skills embedded in the modules/courses?
- What are WIUT students' perceptions of desirable employability skills?
- Do students undertake specific and explicit strategies to develop their employability skills?
- Do the lecturers' and students' perceptions of desirable employability skills converge or diverge?

Methods

Semi-structured interviews :

- Four lecturers comprising two course leaders and two core module leaders from BA Business Administration and BSc Economics
- Four students comprising two from each of the above degree courses.

Textual analysis of course documentation



- Sense-making
- Social intelligence
- Novel and adaptive thinking
- Cross cultural competency
- Computational thinking
- New media literacy
- Transdisciplinarity
- Design mind-set
- Cognitive load management
- Virtual collaboration