Investigating stakeholder perception of the term ‘employability’

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General Introduction:

This dataset contains details of the research questions used to investigate the understanding of the term ‘employability’ amongst stakeholders of education studies programmes at a North-West post-92 university in England.  Due to the terms of participants’ consent, supporting data cannot be made openly available.

The data was collected between January 2022 and November 2022.

This data will be linked to the publication when published.

Research Aim:

To investigate the understanding and perceptions of academic staff, students and employers in relation to the use of the term ‘employability’ in the HE context. This aim was realised through the following objectives:

* To explore and critically examine different stakeholders’ understanding of the term ‘employability’.
* To determine whether an alternative term is required, i.e. one that is more accessible to different stakeholders, and/or better represents what HE practitioners are trying to achieve in preparing students for graduate employment.

In sum, the research sought to address this overarching research question:

* What are different stakeholders’ understandings of the term ‘employability’?

Methodological information:

A case study methodology was utilised.  Research participants were academic, professional support staff, students and employers who were stakeholders of education studies programmes (i.e. not leading to a professional teaching qualification) within the faculty.

The first stage of the research used an online questionnaire to access a wide range of participants using standardised questions. Participants who were prepared to engage with the second stage of the research indicated this at the end of this questionnaire.

The second stage of the research used semi-structured interviews to elicit a deeper understanding of stakeholder views, perceptions and understandings.

Data analysis:

The data went through multiple stages of analysis.  The initial questionnaire data was used to inform the semi-structured interviews.  The interview transcripts were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2022).  The transcripts were reviewed by the researchers individually, then compared and themes reviewed systematically. These themes were then compared with the responses from the initial survey to add depth to the insights generated.