Disruption is changing the world of work and transforming the way we work. Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality and the Internet of Things are reinventing the workplace into something that is almost unrecognisable. So what does this mean for students graduating? The purpose of this conference is to help you explore how these changes are impacting on different sectors, to understand the skills and mind-set employers are looking for and to inspire us to open our minds and seize what is possible.

Wishing you all a successful conference
Professor Kelum Jayasinghe, Employability Director (EBS)
Richard Willis
Richard, the founder of TalentWorks, has spent the majority of his media and advertising career working across all sizes of businesses, from huge multi-national brands such as Vodafone to smaller start-ups. His knowledge of the inner workings of all businesses and brands has been built from the inside out. His true passion is in the detail, and understanding what makes a business tick. As a junior in his first job, when you had to dial-up to the internet, Richard has been at the heart of the way we consume and engage with media channels, and will talk about how disruptive the last 10-15 years have been for the industry.

Professor Hani Hagras
Hani is a Professor of Computational Intelligence, Director of Research, Director of the Computational Intelligence Centre and Head of the Fuzzy Systems Research Group in the University of Essex. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and he is also a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and Principal Fellow HEA. His major research interests are in computational intelligence, notably type-2 fuzzy systems, fuzzy logic, neural networks, genetic algorithms, and evolutionary computation. His research interests also include Internet of Things (IoT), ambient intelligence, pervasive computing and intelligent buildings.

Michael Hobbs
Michael, Managing Director of Accenture Digital, leads their digital work in one of their major banking clients – Barclays. Since graduating from Essex with an MSc in Telecommunications and Information Systems, he has followed a varied and interesting career in the technology industry. He’s worked for large companies and start-ups; done tech things and done business things; built things and sold things. The only consistent themes have been mobile communications and a fascination with what might just work out in the market. His current interests are the impact of AI and the commercialisation gap – the distance between exciting ideas and successful products. He consults on both. He is also part of Accenture’s teaching faculty for new consulting methodologies.

Marianne Streete
Marianne is a Student Recruitment Advisor for EY, overseeing Graduate and Schools recruitment activity and strategy in the South West of England. With a BSc in Management from Southampton University and years of experience in Graduate Recruitment and Development, Marianne has firsthand experience of nearly every stage in a young person’s career journey. Passionate about early talent and the career paths available to young people, Marianne is looking forward to sharing with students the changing landscape of the world of work and inspiring Essex students, allowing them to leave the conference more informed and excited about where their future careers may lead!

Samuel Darcy
Samuel is a Digital Marketing Entrepreneur with a passion for new technologies of tomorrow, Consulting for Start-Ups and established businesses has enabled Samuel to gain a vast overview of disruptive technologies that are remapping consumer attention. Samuel has invested heavily across various Alt Coins in 2017 which he believes will have a major impact in the next decade. His main areas of interest lies in disruptive technologies and Social Media.

Ben Williams
Ben is an expert in the design of psychological assessments and is responsible for many of those lovely tests you take in order to get your dream job! In his session, he will be discussing a growing trend for employers - the use of Games to assess your suitability for a role. He will outline what they look like, what they measure and what evidence there is that they work. Ben is a Board Member of the Association for Business Psychology and Managing Director of Sten10, an assessment design consultancy. 

Katherine Brewster
Katherine works at FDM as the University Relationship Manager for London and the South. She works with universities and professional bodies in order to contribute to the company’s graduate recruitment strategy. Since joining FDM, Katherine has used her experience to help hundreds of students and graduates succeed in launching their IT careers through the FDM graduate programme. Within this session we will explore how FDM has begun using Gamification as part of their assessment process, why they have made this decision, what to expect and how best to prepare for this style of assessment.

Alex Keeble
Alex is a Strategic Transformation Manager working for Strategic Transformation in OCACE. Alex has worked at Barclays for 7 years after joining the Barclays Retail Development Programme on the Undergraduate degree scheme, he gained a degree in Business Management & Leadership. Alex has undertaken numerous roles in Community Banking, Corporate & Wealth & Investment Management in the UK and abroad. Responsibilities have included improving digital employee culture and engagement, developing Video Banking Booths for client/colleague real time anywhere conversations, enhancing iPad roll out and usage across wealth, leading Digital Eagle Tech Bars project and currently delivering API & Artificial Intelligence collaboration projects.