

Starting Your Own Business As A University Student

Being a business owner and university student at the same time? What a terrifying thought that must be to some people.

University alone is enough to make people feel like their calendar is too full to make room for much else.

Although there is some truth in that, this blog is going to show you that IT IS very much possible to start up a business whilst studying at university, and succeed in doing both!

So let's get started.

Kierhardy Ansell, Founder of **Skate It Yourself**, is an example of someone who balanced the intensity of his final year of business studies at the university whilst kick starting his business. A social enterprise, Skate It Yourself provides skateboarding lessons to kids across West Yorkshire and Calderdale after school, providing a safe haven by taking children off the streets and allowing them to learn a new skill.



Instagram: @skateityourself

[Click here to visit the Skate It Yourself website](#)

When chatting to Kierhardy about his experience of being an undergraduate business owner, he described his final year as his best year of university because he was able to utilize what he was learning in his course and apply it to his business. With support from the Enterprise Team, he was also able to apply what he was learning as a business owner to his course. It was the best of both worlds for Kierhardy. He completed [Enterprise Placement Year \(EPY\)](#) during his third year, a programme we provide to students seeking an alternative placement with the passion of starting their own business. Kierhardy spoke about how many students he knew who completed EPY and took a step back from running their business until their final year was complete, but Kierhardy did the opposite, and instead slowly increased his attention on Skate It Yourself Whilst balancing his studies.

Now, we are sure that you are not under any illusion that running your own business and working your way through university life is easy. As Kierhardy put it, it's demanding, and it's tough trying to find that perfect balance where you're nurturing your business in the right way and doing well in your studies at the same time. But he stressed that **"learning whilst having the business there in front of you is something that you can't really duplicate"**.



In October 2019, two months into his first term of final year at university, Kierhardy came runner-up in the Santander Universities Entrepreneurship Awards, receiving £15,000 investment into his business, a paid intern, and mentoring. Following on from this, Kierhardy's skating lessons increased in numbers and he continues to take Skate It Yourself above and beyond. This is a true testament to the fact that, although running your own business as a student is undoubtedly challenging, it is very possible to do it and accomplish things you never thought you could.

Are you an undergraduate at the University of Huddersfield or a graduate in the last five years thinking of starting your own business? Take a look at our website to see [how we can help](#) and how you can [get in touch](#).