

## **Widening Horizons:**

# **Developing and Delivering an International Student Experience**

### Introduction:

From the validation of the Bachelor Nursing (2011) programme the new and exciting theory and practice modules were developed and delivered. We are also able to offer an ERASMUS exchange for the nursing students.

There is an international option theory module, 4 week Elective and 13 week ERASMUS exchange, all in year 3 of the nursing programme.

#### **Student experience:**

For the Elective students have the opportunity to go with WorktheWorld. For example students have recently completed an Elective in Tanzania and Ghana. Another country where students have had an international experience is North Carolina (Asheville and Cherokee), Canada (Vancouver) and Finland (Lahti). Student feedback from such an experience has been positive " You'll see conditions you'll never have an opportunity to do so in the UK, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity".

### **Key challenges:**

The importance of healthcare:

Healthcare within our society is culturally

diverse and continually changing and is

calling for better preparation of

undergraduate nurses (Knight 2004).

Through development and delivery of the

new theory and practice modules this is

enabling students to seek an international

experience which ultimately prepares them

to be active global practitioners. They are

learning about healthcare from another

country and comparing this to their own.

There are key challenges in ensuring all students are given the opportunity for such an experience (Grant and Mckenna 2003) however not all students will be able to achieve this experience. The main challenges are; cost, accommodation, family commitments, placement agreement, documentation, other studies at the same time.

The International Student Experience

#### The way forward:

Introducing opportunities for international experience early in programme will enable students to prepare/organise themselves.

Regular collaboration and networking with our current partners and future partners.

Increasing student awareness of applying grants and scholarships.

Supporting the students to seek an international experience.

Learning, teaching and assessing from an international perspective.

#### References

Knight, J., (2004) Internationalisation remodelled: definition, approaches, and rationales. *Journal of Studies in International Education* 8 (1) 5-31. Grant, E, McKenna, L., (2003) International Clinical Placements for undergraduate students. *Journal Clinical Nursing* 12 529-535. Work the world www.worktheworld.co.uk Accessed 1/6/13

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