

Topic stream: B. Good practice

Submission type: Presentation

Submission title:

A tale of two cities: building long-term collaboration with an international partner

Abstract:

Since November 2008 I have been helping to lead a deepening relationship with a Dutch university: NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences. From a short meeting with four research students in a cold Craiglockhart broom cupboard, the collaboration has led to hundreds of their students visiting Edinburgh, Erasmus exchanges in both directions, external examining trips, and knowledge exchange of mutual benefit. In the spring of 2015 we were finally able to involve large numbers of Edinburgh Napier students in a shared project with their Netherlands-based counterparts. This was the high water mark of the relationship, thus far: a collaborative student-focused project that saw students from various nations applying their knowledge and creativity to the possibility of creating an event in Edinburgh.

This presentation will feature three main themes:

- 1) In telling the story of the collaboration its breadth will be discussed with reference to appropriate literature. A summary of Hyland *et al*'s 2008 paper for the HEA has been used as the basis of this reflection, thanks to its emphasis on the internationalisation of the higher education curriculum from multiple perspectives.
- 2) Innovations in teaching, learning and assessment will be identified, including some comparison between Edinburgh Napier and NHTV Breda curricula. These will include: the co-created shared project of spring 2015; NHTV's competence based programme structures; NHTV's end of degree interview, as experienced from an external examiner's perspective.
- 3) Transferability to other contexts will also be discussed: the importance of building strong personal relationships when working in an international context; dealing with the processes and structures of each university, in areas such as student exchanges; and the job satisfaction to be had from helping to steer a sustainable project.

Reference:

Hyland, F., Trahar, S., Anderson J. and Dickens, A. (2008). "A Changing World: The internationalisation experiences of staff and students (home and international) in UK higher education" Higher Education Academy. EvidenceNet summary available from https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/detail/resources/detail/evidencenet/Summaries/a_changing_world_internationalisation. [Accessed 03.12.2015]

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