

Nottingham to Ningbo: Change Agents across the globe

Background Info

- Response to the University's Strategy 2020 which aims to put students at the heart of the University and provide a consistent experience for all
- Global university with a culturally and geographically diverse student body – over 44,000 students spread over 8 sites in 3 countries (UK, Malaysia, China)

What are students doing?

- Creating learning materials - both digital and physical
- Designing training sessions
- Setting up peer support
- Surveys and focus groups leading to evaluation and recommendations

We made a difference for the next students who will study in the school.

If you've got an idea and you want to do something about it, this is the kind of structure that you could go about actually making a difference.

It's been one of the most fun things I've done in my 20 years at University.



Support available

- Resources on Moodle
- Training sessions, both online and face to face
- Bespoke training available on student request
- Optional Nottingham Advantage Award credit

Blended learning approach

- Face-to-face induction session for each project team
- Change Agents produce a Mahara ePortfolio to showcase their skills development
- Student-generated Xerte Online Toolkits delivering training in 6 areas via Moodle:
 - a) Project Management
 - b) Focus Groups and Surveys
 - c) Time Management
 - d) Teambuilding
 - e) Working and communicating with others
 - f) Leadership Skills



Projects

2014-15 (pilot year): 5 projects
2015-16: 12 projects

Examples of projects include:

- **Pharmacy:** Students are designing and running mock **Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs)** for 1st and 2nd years
- **Natural Sciences:** Student creation of peer mentoring on a multidisciplinary degree programme
- **English:** Academic support for exchange students from the China campus studying in the UK
- **Language Centre, China:** Students are developing online resources for exchange students to use before going to study at the China campus
- **Maths:** Developing **Peer Assisted Study Support (PASS)** to help bridge the gap from A level to university maths. Students first designed the scheme in 2014/15 and then implemented it this year



Students at the heart

- Change Agents choose their level of engagement with the scheme
- Students conduct annual reviews gathering and evaluating feedback from Change Agents, then implement improvements to the programme
- Students are actively involved in ongoing programme development, promotion and project scoping



What do students gain?

- CV development – project management, teamwork, communication skills etc.
- Active involvement in improving university life and an enhanced sense of community
- A new perspective on the University through relationships outside the usual student-teacher dynamic, preparing them for the world of work