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

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

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

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