

## **Internationalisation and Community Engagement**

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*'The concept of intercultural learning and dialogue lays the foundation for a shifting sense of one's place in the global arena, from the egocentric and individualist to the concept of integral global diversity, which privileges tolerance, solidarity and a mutual sense of understanding.'* (JASSBI, A.J. (2004) *Intercultural Learning & Dialogue: Practical Approaches*. Available at [http://www.iau-aiu.net/id/id\\_case\\_studies.html](http://www.iau-aiu.net/id/id_case_studies.html) )

If we are to reap the benefits of internationalisation for staff and students in our universities we need to go beyond traditional models of student mobility and embrace curriculum internationalisation in its broadest sense. The 'informal' curriculum - that which is provided by the university as part of the student experience beyond the formal programme of study - can provide the key to a wealth of transformational learning. 'Multicultural' overlaps with 'international' in the context of the home campus, offering 'internationalisation at home' to both domestic and international students, while structured and purposeful volunteering activities overseas can benefit staff, students and the communities they serve.

This presentation will consider how one university in the UK has addressed internationalisation in the informal curriculum through community engagement within and beyond the university. It will provide evidence of the success of these initiatives through the impact on staff and students. It will also show how research has fed into the continuing enhancement of practice in spite of a declining resource base.

'Curriculum' is often considered the preserve of the academic; this presentation will demonstrate clearly that every member of staff has a role to play in designing and delivering the informal curriculum and an equal amount to gain from the opportunities which result.