Title: **You've Internationalised me now support me: Building and Supporting a Global Academic Community-Who, how, what, when and why**

Presenter: **Jenny Eland, Dr Rachel Curzon and Sarah King**
Birmingham City University and University of Birmingham

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Appreciate the need for structured staff development opportunities for overseas partners delivering UK programmes
- Identify the challenges of ensuring QA and QE when working in partnership with international educational institutions
- Explore solutions and articulate areas of good practice in overseas staff development

Session Outline

Birmingham City University in line with many other HE institutions has expanded its franchise *provision beyond the UK shores. Indeed the Strategic Plan states that the University is committed* to:
Internationalising the University in terms of its student body, *overseas partnerships* and promoting global perspectives in our curricula and research (BCU 2014)

We offer the same undergraduate and postgraduate courses overseas, through franchise provision and other validated programmes, which leads to considerations as to whether this offers the same experience and quality as in the home institution. BCU staff must complete a PG Cert in their first two years and take up further CPD opportunities, but this is not routinely offered to overseas staff. So, what about these overseas partners, how do we support their development? It is essential that in working in partnership the quality of provision for both home and international students is consistent and that colleagues involved in learning and teaching share the core values of the institution, whilst embracing and celebrating our cultural diversity (QAA 2012, p.13) How do we do this when for the majority of the provision the curriculum is set by the home institution? The decisions relating to who selects the content and learning outcomes amount to a hidden curriculum (Leask and Bridge 2013) and for us are issues that had to be addressed in the CPD proposal for our partners.

The session will use as its focus a SEDA PDF programme of study that has been recently developed in the Centre for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching at Birmingham City University to support overseas partner institutions. The programme, entitled "Supporting

Learning and Teaching for Overseas Partners" ran a successful pilot with colleagues from partner institution from India in November 2013 and may 2014. Further roll-outs of the programme in Hong Kong, Singapore and Qatar have taken place. The programme began as a response to the needs of partner organisations overseas for access to the types of staff development opportunities that are offered to academics working internally at the University. The aim was to support academics involved in delivering Birmingham City University programmes to overseas students.

Participants will explore how such a programme provides the opportunity to promote intercultural understanding whilst ensuring parity of provision as part of the quality assurance process

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

The outline of the workshop is a follows;

15 minute presentation-including rationale, what happened and the wider context
20 minute activities looking at the challenges and obstacles within own institutions
10 minute summary of our plans for enhancement of the provision and with our "top tips" for designing staff development opportunities for overseas partners.

References

BCU (2014) Birmingham City University Strategic Plan 2020. Available online file:///C:/Users/id105399.STAFF/Downloads/bcu-strategic-plan-130428889832263401.pdf
Leask, B and Bridge, C. (2013) Comparing internationalisation of the curriculum in action across disciplines: theoretical and practical perspectives *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education 43:1 pp79-101*
QAA (2012) The UK Quality Code for Higher Education: Chapter B3: Learning and Teaching. Available online http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/quality-code-B3.pdf