**Internationalisation: what’s the problem?**

**Sally Brown Thursday 24th May 2012**

No problem, just opportunities!

OECD’s (1994) definition of internationalised curricula:

* “Curricula with an international orientation in content, aimed at preparing students for performing (professionally/socially) in an international and multicultural context and designed for domestic students as well as foreign students.”
* Ensure that the curriculum is developed to provide the international perspectives and competences that reflect a global workplace and internationalised social milieu
* It should be, wherever possible, equally appropriate for “local” and international students, allowing for cultural differences and variation in perspective. Indeed, it should use these differences and variations to enhance the learning opportunities.

**Making it work at WIT**

1. **Diverse pedagogies**

Classroom practices

Relationships between academics and students

Asking and answering questions

Conventions re written work

Extent and nature of technologies

1. **Curriculum issues**

International subject material

Examples and case studies that are truly international

Understanding approaches based on learning outcomes and links to assessment

1. **Assessment expectations**

Size and scope of assignments: how many words?

Incremental or sudden death assessment?

Marking conventions: what does B+ mean?

Group work or not?

Oral assessment

Type and extent of feedback

1. **Student issues**

Admission issues

Induction into Irish context (generic or international induction, or scones!)

Working and living with fellow nationals

Making friends, working in groups

Support (academic, pastoral, language, accommodation, crisis)

Easing communications with home

**Developing partnerships**

* No quick fixes
* The right kinds of partnerships: strategic vision needed
* What are your partnerships for?
* Quality really matters: understand the contexts
* Do the sums right (true costings)!

**References**

Carroll, J. and Ryan, J. (2005) *Teaching International students: improving learning for all,* London: Routledge SEDA series.

Jones, E. and Brown, S. (2007) *Internationalising higher education,* London: Routledge

Ryan, J. (2000) *A Guide to Teaching International Students,* Oxford: Oxford Centre for Staff and Learning Development.