

## Learning & Teaching Conference 2010

Abstract 3B

### **Transition Experiences of International Students Joining Undergraduate Studies in Second Year**

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Students who join the university as second-year direct entrants are likely to have specific requirements and experiences in their transitions to the University. This session reports on a project to investigate the experiences of international students joining undergraduate degree programmes in second year at the University of Glasgow after a year's study at a partner institution. The aims of the project were to identify any barriers that prevented the students from achieving a smooth transition into the University and introduce measures to assist students through the transitional phase.

Key findings from research into the experiences of this group over two academic years will be presented. Semi-structured group and individual interviews were conducted at three different time points with the support of the University's Learning and Teaching Development Fund. The results from the qualitative interviews offer valuable perspectives from international students on their transition experiences, including reflections on the induction process, learning experiences in classes and in individual work, and social experience.

The project is currently ongoing and the session will also reflect on some of the measures that have been introduced in response to emergent findings. The student cohort has also been actively involved in assisting with the development of additional support for subsequent groups of second-year direct-entry students, through both face to face meetings and the production of a printed booklet. The outcomes from the project include: increased contact with prospective students in the partner institution and a targeted approach towards second year entrants.

The session will address the conference themes of:

- transition *into* the university
- induction and the first year experience
- international students