Joanne Smailes and
Pat Gannon-Leary
Northumbria University

Did we get right?

Student views on inclusive teaching and learning practices.

Email contact: joanne.smailes@northumbria.ac.uk
Teaching and Learning

• Lecture Sessions
• Peer relationships
• Learning Cultures
• Assessment
Lecture Sessions

international students themselves wished to stress that adopting too slow a pace would not be advisable, as their UK counterparts would either be bored or resent being “spoken to as if they were children”.

Shakya & Horsfall (2000); Beaven et al. (1998); Dunkel & Davy (1989)
Relationship with Peers

International and local students do not readily mix, Rifkin et al (1996); Ledwith (1997)

“I like being in a classroom with a cultural mix of students”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>S.Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>S.Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELAN</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS Int.</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS UK</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Confidence

• Not used to previous interactivity (UK 57% vs 46% Int, p<0.01)
• Make up of groups lead to using 1st language
• Overcoming language barrier and then also having to feel subject knowledge is correct at right speed
• Ouyang (2006), Thorpe (2006): international students do not wish to disturb harmony of the sessions
Learning Culture

Bamford et al (1996)...
... recognise adaptation in learning style required... more prior independent reading required

UK students are encouraged to be more independent?
86% agree, 49% strongly
79% recognising different study skills needed

Preparatory Seminar Reading

International: 31%
UK: 17%  p<0.01
Difficulty as level progresses

1st and 2nd year recommended texts tend to be descriptive with pictorial and diagrammatic expressions

Final year texts more demanding and more stress placed on finding and use of journal articles
Managing Assessment

Plagiarism

Introna et al (2003) ... ESL students more likely to plagiarise is potential discrimination, as easier to spot.

Pressure of unfamiliar Western processes i.e. Identification of texts, lack of ease with paraphrasing (Errey, 2002; Thorpe, 2006)
## Managing Assessment

### International NBS Responses to Questions on Understanding Plagiarism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>S. Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>S. Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I understand the need to use referencing and quotation marks</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand that assessment work submitted must be my own</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand the need to explain ideas in my own words</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Plagiarism not encountered until NBS but... "it was the first thing we heard on every module"
Three recommendations to overcome your student’s “problem”
Did we get it right?

• Lecture Sessions
• Peer relationships
• Learning Cultures
• Assessment
Lecture Recommendations

1. Recording of lectures
2. Lecture Overview

International students greater preference
To enhance further...

- lecturer preference on recording be made explicit in student module/programme handbooks.
- permission to record preferable
Seminar Recommendations

1. Introductions
2. For group work, the lecturer carefully selects the group members.
3. Ground rules are set for group discussions
# Seminar Recommendations

## NBS Percentage Responses to the usefulness of recommendations for seminar practice by Nationality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Extremely useful</th>
<th>Fairly Useful</th>
<th>No preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early in module seminars students are given a chance to introduce themselves to other students in the group. (p&lt;0.05)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For group work, the lecturer carefully selects the group members. (p&lt;0.01)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground rules are set for group discussions e.g. only one student speaks at a time (p&lt;0.01)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students are given a few minutes before group discussions to jot down an outline of what they might say</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Learning Culture Recommendations

## NBS Percentage Responses to the usefulness of recommendations for adapting to a new learning culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Extremely useful</th>
<th>Fairly Useful</th>
<th>No preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading lists are distributed early</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading lists identify which materials are essential or core and which are just recommendations.</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturers provide a teaching &amp; learning plan at the start of each module with precise guides for directed learning and seminar preparation</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials such as handouts and PowerPoint slides are made available on VLE a few days before lectures.</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In lectures any key or unfamiliar concepts are explained</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In lectures global or international examples are used to illustrate topics or concepts</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Only occurs 1/3 of the time**
- **29% feel rarely happens**
To enhance further...

• Extended use of VLE to initiate and extend discussion (Freeman & Capper, 1999; Graziadei, 1998)

• Peer mentoring (Poyrazil et al, 2002; Yeh & Inose, 2003; Ellis et al, 2005)
VLE Comments...

“It was really interesting to see presentations on VLE (which we were supposed to use later in the class) as reading them prior to class made it easier for me to come up with comments during the class. Comments and discussion within the class are important to have a clear understanding of concepts.”

“Using the VLE beforehand make it easier for me to understand lectures. English is not my native language plus I’m not extremely comfortable with accents so having a prior knowledge is helpful for me.”
Assessment Recommendations

• There is an element of individualisation to assignments.
• For large assignments, lecturers break the work up into tasks each with its own deadline.
• Lecturers expand on assignment tasks, e.g. explaining the purpose, what the title is really saying etc.
• Lecturers give clear instruction on the format and structure of reports and essays.
• Lecturers give guidance on how to judge the authority of information sources, e.g. web pages.
• Students are given examples of texts offering alternative viewpoints and explanations.
• Lecturers provide examples of good work and work which could have been improved.
• Lecturers provide opportunities for students to show them work in progress.

Over 80% of all students would find all suggestions useful; many saying extremely useful.

50% feel rarely happens.
Exemplars of previous work

Positive example cited... lecturer had posted assignment drafts and tutor feedback from the previous session’s students on the VLE.

“I easily got the answers from this feedback and the examples in the VLE. It not only saved me time but helped me solve my difficulties. It cultivated my capability of independent study without somebody’s guidance”
Reinforced Suggestion

• Lecturers’ willingness to look at work in progress along with a set office hours could be made explicit on module/assignment handbooks.

“In Hong Kong the tutor will say: ‘you can e-mail me, or come to my office’, but no-one has said that here. So we don’t know if we can or not.... In Hong Kong, we even have their phone number, not just their office room number, so we can call them. In Hong Kong, we can access them in many ways, but its not so easy here.”
Conclusions

• All recommendations made to lecturers to try to create an inclusive teaching and learning were corroborated positively by both UK and international students.
• In a number of areas it is clear that staff practice is assisting international students adjust to UK study.
• However, there is room for improvement particularly in regard to...
  – Pace of lectures in light of note taking;
  – Seminar practice
  – Management of assessment