

Title of presentation

Taking action on Global Nursing: The sustainable impact of a preparatory course for international Pre-Nursing students

Presenters

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Abstract

Internationalisation is at the core of discussions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Higher Education institutions, as it is directly linked to SDG4 and aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” (United Nations, 2020; Ramaswamy et al., 2021). Preparing international Pre-Nursing students for undergraduate entry to the QUB School of Nursing and Midwifery (SNAM) strengthens the link between internationalisation and sustainable development, because of its positive impact on health (SDG3) and employment (SDG8). The view of a nurse as a ‘global citizen’ (Cezario, 2017) is also a key element in the preparation of international Pre-Nursing students, in line with the university’s strategy on Education for Sustainable Development. This paper aims to discuss the sustainable impact of a course developed by INTO Queen’s University Belfast (INTO QUB) in collaboration with the QUB SNAM to support the preparation of a cohort of Saudi Arabian Pre-Nursing students over two academic years (2019-2021).

This preparatory course was a multidisciplinary project designed to equip a group of sponsored Saudi Arabian students with the linguistic and subject-specific skills and competencies needed for undergraduate entry to the QUB SNAM in the 2021-22 academic year. The first phase of the project involved needs’ analysis of the prospective students, in terms of academic skills and language abilities, and the development of a bespoke scheme of work to include introductory nursing topics in weekly tutorial sessions. The second

phase of the project encompassed the assessment of students' progress at different stages of their study plan and adjustments to the scheme of work to address students' ongoing needs. The third phase of the project analysed the distance travelled by students, from entry to exit point, and identified the sustainable impact of such initiative in current teaching practices at INTO QUB in preparation to host future cohorts of Pre-Nursing students.

The analysis of students' linguistic and academic results at the end of this course shows strong evidence of progress and preparedness for higher education study. Student feedback highlights student awareness of the importance of work ethic and independent study to succeed academically as a Nursing or Midwifery student. It is hoped that the learning and teaching practices developed for this project serve as a steppingstone for the implementation of future internationalisation initiatives between INTO QUB and Schools within the university.

Reference list:

Cezario, S. K. (2017) 'What does it mean to be a global citizen?', *Nursing Women's Health* 21 (1), pp. 59-63.

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