THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
in association with
THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

and

Commonwealth Universities Study Abroad Consortium (CUSAC)

QUALITY & EQUivalence: Issues in Education Abroad

SEminar

Programme

June 19 – 20, 2008
Mona Visitors’ Lodge & Conference Centre
Kingston, Jamaica
Welcome!

It is only fifteen years since CUSAC was established, yet the world of international exchange has changed radically during the intervening period. In 1993, international exchange represented only a fraction of its current activity, often performed by enthusiasts rather than professionals and, for most of us, without the use of e-mail! Today it is widely recognised as a core part of the higher education experience.

CUSAC has changed, too, during that time. No longer just a forum for introductions and mutual understanding, but an active community of those who want to actively share common experience, good practice and actively bring the policy issues that surround international exchange to even wider audiences.

I'm delighted that the ACU has been able to play a role in this, since taking over the management of CUSAC in 1999. Even more so, that loyal members such as the University of the West Indies, whose staff have put so much effort into this event, continue to find the organisation relevant to their work. My thanks go to UWI, and all the attendees, as we look forward to another stimulating meeting.

Dr John Kirkland
Deputy Secretary-General (Development)
Association of Commonwealth Universities
& Executive Secretary, CUSAC
Message from the Vice Chancellor,
The University of the West Indies

On behalf of the University of the West Indies, I extend a very warm welcome to all participants at the seminar on Quality and Equivalence: Issues in Education Abroad, sponsored by the Commonwealth Universities Study Abroad Consortium (CUSAC). We at the UWI are particularly pleased, not only to have collaborated with the University of Ghana in the planning of this seminar, which we are hosting at the Mona Visitors’ Lodge and Conference Centre on June 19 and 20, but we are honoured to be chosen as the hosts for the biennial CUSAC Members’ Meeting, which follow on June 21. A special welcome to Professor Clifford Tagoe, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana and Rev. Professor Emmanuel Obeng, Vice Chancellor of University of Cape Coast.

As you are all aware the imperatives of internationalization have become an ever present reality for those of us who are engaged in the business of higher education. We cannot afford to continue along a path of insularity, or within the framework of ignorance or mistrust with respect to each other, but we must actively share information so that there is clarity about standards and expectations. This will enable our students to move across our borders with more confidence in our willingness and ability to supply and demand equivalent academic experiences, credit for which can be transferred seamlessly from one university to the other.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive two days of sharing of perspectives and distilling the issues relevant to ensuring sustainability of movement of students between our universities. We look forward to your sharing the outcomes of your deliberations with all members of CUSAC as well as other universities with whom you have established partnerships, in both Commonwealth and Non-Commonwealth countries. I hope that you will find some time also, to experience the beauty and richness of culture in Jamaica.

Professor E. Nigel Harris
Vice Chancellor
The University of the West Indies
Message from the Principal, Mona Campus
The University of the West Indies

On behalf of the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies, I extend a warm welcome to all those participating in the seminar on Quality and Equivalence: Issues in Education Abroad, sponsored by the Commonwealth Universities Study Abroad Consortium (CUSAC). The UWI has had a long history of involvement with the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and has been a member of CUSAC since its inception.

The Mona campus is the site at which the UWI was established under Royal Charter in 1948, when 33 medical students registered under what was then the University College of the West Indies, London. It is our greatest pleasure, in this the 60th year of our university, to be hosting the biennial CUSAC Members’ Meeting on June 21, and the seminar which precedes it on June 19 and 20. The partnership with the University of Ghana in the planning of this seminar is significant, as it points to the very essence of the objectives of CUSAC, and sets the stage for increase in South-South collaboration among higher education institutions. We share a similar history and the pooling of our resources and establishment of partnerships based on our strengths, will create the context within which we can foster understanding among our students and mutually beneficial relationships among our staff.

I know that the Planning Committee along with the Mona Visitors’ Lodge and Conference Centre will do everything possible to ensure that your visit to the UWI, Mona campus is a memorable one. I wish for you a successful series of meetings and we look forward to sharing the outcome.

Professor Gordon Shirley
Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal
The University of the West Indies
Mona Campus
09.00 – 9.30
OPENING SESSION

09.30 – 10.30
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
CREATING A LANDSCAPE FOR PARTNERSHIPS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Speaker:
Ronald Young
Pro Vice Chancellor
Graduate Studies & Research

Abstract
As we in higher education institutions adjust our strategies in order to create the appropriate landscape for partnerships, we are mindful of the need to address the issues of quality and equivalence. A quality education demands that students are placed in situations which afford them memorable and useful academic experiences. Such outcomes will accrue from our conscious efforts to open their eyes and broaden their horizons.

CUSAC has been among the international institutions which have been committed to facilitating the enrichment of the academic and cultural experience of students, and we laud their efforts. Some of the imperatives to be observed as we set the stage for student mobility are careful preparation of the students, orientation of staff of both sending and receiving institutions, fostering intra and inter institutional understanding so that our students and faculty can be assured of seamlessness on re-entry.

Professor Ronald Young is an outstanding academic and administrator. He was appointed Professor of Physiology in 1991 and in 2000 was appointed Professor of Human & Comparative Physiology. He was Dean of the Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences for eight years prior to his appointment as Pro Vice Chancellor. He serves on many boards regionally and internationally including the International Brain Research Organisation and is the author of many publications as well as documentaries.

Chair:
Clement William Iton
University Registrar
The University of the West Indies

10.30 – 11.00
BREAK
DISCUSSION PAPER SESSION A – CREATING A LANDSCAPE FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Chair: Dr. Annette Kratz
Head, Centre for International Exchange and Languages
Keele University, United Kingdom

Presenter: Bryan McFarlane

Abstract
Global changes are rapidly altering the world and it is important to be aware of other societies and their unique expressions. Encouraging our students to study abroad and participating in exchanges will benefit the ‘worlds’ from which they come. A new vision for this new era should not compromise quality but instead, draw upon the dynamics of change. The emerging post colonial and post slavery cultures have much to offer and the impact that they exert is inescapable and pressingly relevant.

I have had a deep interest in bringing an international dimension to teaching that is unique, by creating new linkages between the University of the West Indies, the Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, Rhode Island School of Design - Graduate and Undergraduate Programmes. The aim is to create new linkages between the “Third World Nations” and historic Art Centers of Europe and the Near East. Of course, if this is to become a reality, issues of equivalence will have to be addressed.

Dr. Bryan McFarlane is a lecturer at Rhode Island School of Design

Presenter: Ann Marie Witter

Abstract
The administration of the University of the West Indies’ undergraduate exchange programme is similar to that of our partners in many respects and could be considered within standard industry practices. In addition, the UWI, Mona is establishing an International Student Unit, to be formerly opened for the upcoming academic year, which will attend to the administrative and academic issues facing international students on a whole, and international exchange students in particular, as well as provide advocacy, where necessary. The major challenges currently being faced by our outgoing students are financial in nature. For incoming students, the major challenge is adjusting to our method of examination. By and large the international exchange programme, particularly with the introduction of CUSAP, a Canadian initiative to assist incoming exchange students, is going well and indications are strong for continued growth.

Miss Ann Marie Witter is Senior Assistant Registrar for Student Affairs, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.
Abstract
As universities establish support systems to facilitate viable partnerships, one of the most important areas of focus must be the services offered to international students. The current trend is for universities to establish special international offices, with staff members given the mandate to respond in a timely manner to the needs of students who have allowed themselves to be exposed to education across borders. The role of Student Services is not limited to facilitating incoming students but also extends to creating opportunities for the institution’s own students.

Mr. Carlton Lowrie is the Student Services Manager, Irvine Hall at the Mona Campus, The University of the West Indies
13.30 – 14.30

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

POLICIES RELATED TO INTERNATIONALISATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Speaker:

Bhoendradatt Tewarie
Pro Vice Chancellor
Planning & Development

Abstract

An international network of institutions existed in a supportive relationship with the UWI from its inception. Some of the relationships were regional, but many had global impact as well. Against this background, the UWI is examining the possibilities of building on past experiences as it charts its way into the twenty-first century world of intensifying global interconnectedness.

Any revised or new framework to support the building of international partnerships must inter alia, rethink international partnerships in the context of strategic plans, carefully identify stakeholder needs which could benefit from a partnership strategy, build on best practices established over the years, while drawing on knowledge of best practices at other peer institutions, decipher trends in international partnerships and international collaboration that might require a studied response and leverage international partnerships for the purposes of image building, reputation building and branding. Thus policies articulated by higher education institutions should reflect these and other imperatives.

Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie has served the University of the West Indies as Director of the University Institute of Business (now Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business) and as Principal, St. Augustine Campus. He received his PH.D. Comparative Literature from the Pennsylvania State University and is a graduate of the Leadership programme of the Said School of Business at Oxford University.

Chair:

Mrs. Indrani Bachan-Persad
Director, International Office
UWI, St. Augustine Campus
14.30 – 15.30
DISCUSSION PAPER SESSION B – POLICIES RELATED TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Chair:
Dr. Bevis Peters
Director, External Relations Intra/Inter Institutional Collaboration (ERIIC)
The University of the West Indies, Open Campus

Abstract

Just under 250,000 US college students currently study abroad. By 2015 it is anticipated that 1,000,000 US students will study abroad. Understandably issues of host capacity have catapulted to the center of popular discourse. In an ideal world sending institutions would like host institutions to be symmetrical reflections of their own institutions, at least in terms of academic content, faculty qualifications and even instructional methods. This seminar is timely, in that discourse is needed as to what host institutions desire and need to make study abroad a mutually beneficial activity.

This paper raises the issue of what needs to inform the sending institutions’ vision of their expectations of quality and equivalence from host institutions. Questions that need to be asked and answered are: Is it acceptable or even desirable that host institutions standards be equivalent to those of sending institutions? What is the perception that drives the desire for equivalence, is it grounded in a perception of superiority/inferiority especially in relation to none traditional destinations? What are the implications for meeting local students’ needs if resources have to be diverted to achieve equivalence? What is the scope for reciprocity in study abroad? Obviously the paper raises more questions than answers. Nonetheless it makes the suggestion that the extent to which sending institutions collaborate with host institutions to make study abroad a mutually beneficial experience needs to be driven by a philosophical approach which is mindful of cultural context, host capacity, and the need for reciprocity or shared learning. These considerations also have implications for the duration of programs, the administrative and the organizational structure of programs. The paper ends with recommendations for dialogue and action by both sending and host institutions.

Ms. Shirley Campbell is the Academic Director, School for international Training Study Abroad, Jamaica Programme
Abstract

The University of the West Indies’ (UWI’s) networking capacity has for more than two decades led to the restructuring and redefinition of its role in the Caribbean as the regional institution. The regional partnerships have done much more than offering programmes, they have led to the formation of policies that have positively influenced the tertiary education landscape in the context of quality assurance and equivalency.

From the perspective of the UWI’s outreach programmes and the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit (TLIU) now External Relations Intra/Inter Institutional Collaboration (ERIIC), the UWI has been proactive in its mandate in establishing areas of quality assurance and equivalency to encourage and engage in collaborative arrangements. As such this paper proposes to discuss the UWI’s policies in arrangements of collaboration/partnerships with other tertiary level institutions. It will examine the dynamic intra-institutional relationships that must exist within the UWI to encourage the inter-institutional relationships that require the establishment of policies and practices to maintain standards of excellence. Through the examination of the inter-institutional relationships, the types of collaborations which include, franchising, equivalency and articulation arrangements will be discussed.

Mrs. Jeannette Grant Woodham is the Senior Programme Office ERIIC, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus
Abstract

International mobility of students and scholars represent long-standing forms of academic mobility (Jane Knight). Study abroad programmes are a form of international mobility that is increasingly impacted by the internationalization of higher education, but perhaps with less scrutiny. Across the globe, the number of students participating in Study Abroad programmes has been on the increase. In the United States, e.g., the number of college students spending some time learning in another country has doubled over the last decade (insiderhighered.org). In the Caribbean region, Study Abroad programmes are still fairly fledgling but taking on greater importance as being internationally competent is a growing necessity for graduates of Caribbean higher education institutions serve all over the globe. Some institutions, UWI, for example, are moving to prepare such competent graduates by establishing International Programmes Offices. This paper will explore issues which surface when UWI students return from a study abroad experience, e.g., credits are not awarded because of concern with quality or equivalence. It recommends the continued development of partnerships, cooperation between quality assurance mechanisms across institutions, and national efforts to support institutional ones.

Dr. Anna Perkins is a Programme Officer in the Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, University of the West Indies
09.00 – 10.00
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION – REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Speaker:
Clifford Tagoe
Vice-Chancellor
University of Ghana

Abstract

This paper presents information the status of Quality Assurance and Accreditation procedures and institutions in Africa. It gives an overview of regional initiatives in Quality Assurance as well as the challenges and opportunities that face Africa in linking with the rest of the world. It considers, among other issues, the implications of GATS and the issue of Cross Border higher educations and ends with a series of recommendations that need to be addressed for QAA in Africa.

Key words: Higher Education, Africa, Quality Assurance, Accreditation

Professor Clifford Nii Boi Tagoe is the current Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, a position he has held since October 1, 2006. He entered the University of Ghana in 1971, to study for a Bachelor’s degree in Medicine and Surgery, graduating in 1976. After his housemanship at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Professor Tagoe had a brief stint, working as a Medical Officer with the Ministry of Health. He completed his Doctoral studies in Anatomy 1983 at the University.

Over the years, he has served on numerous Boards and Committees of the University, including the University Council.

Chair:
Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Obeng
Pro Vice-Chancellor
The University of Cape Coast

10.00 – 10.15
BREAK
Abstract

The University of Ghana (UG) has participated in CUSAC for about seven years. Over this period, a number of students have benefited from the exchange programme. The direct impact of the CUSAC experience on these students and the spill-off gains to UG have been immense. For the students, the opportunity to encounter academic practices in different cultural settings has served to broaden and internationalized their outlook. On the part of UG, participation in the CUSAC programme has contributed to the strengthening of our internationalization processes. To ensure that the programme continues to provide the international perspectives it is designed to achieve, this paper highlights some of the challenges that students and UG as an institution have had to contend with and proposes possible ways to deal with these. The paper also gives an overview of UG’s quality assurance process, first in relation to the CUSAC programme and second as one of the pillars undergirding our internationalization efforts.

Prof. Kweku Osam is the Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Ghana
**ARTS AND CULTURE IN EDUCATION ABROAD: A THREE-SIDED VIEW.**

**Abstract**

Arts and culture curricula in education abroad experiences have provided access to a variety of arts cultures thereby affirming varying cultural perspectives and giving all cultures equal standing through quality programming. In this paper, I identify varied conceptualizations of arts curricula in education abroad programs, describe the content of an arts and culture curriculum model I have implemented in Ghana and Jamaica, and discuss the challenges and successes of the model. The central question: How can education abroad experiences provide equitable, accessible and quality educational experiences for students to recognize, and incorporate bi and multi-lateral arts and culture perspectives into their academic programs? The analysis of the design and implementation of two programs and a discussion of the issues that emerge for specific institutions in providing equitable, accessible and quality art and culture educational experiences abroad.

**KEY WORDS:** Internationalizing, education abroad, arts and culture studies, access, equity and quality.

Prof. Akosua Addo is professor of Music Education/Music Therapy & African American Studies at the University of Minnesota, USA.

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES : FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Abstract**

The issue of quality assurance is an important one whether higher education institutions are dealing with programmes for its own students or international clientele. With the trends toward thinking of education as a commodity within the forum of the GATT’s discussion, it is essential to be prudent in accessing the financial implications of internationalization in higher education. It is important to weigh the cost against the benefit to arrive at an ‘optimised model’.

Dr. Nkrumah Young is the Vice–President of Finance and Business Services, University of Technology, Jamaica
11.30 – 12.45
PANEL PRESENTATION
QUALITY, EQUIVALENCE AND THE EDUCATION ACROSS BORDERS EXPERIENCE – EXCHANGE STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS

The discussion will be centred on student perspectives

Presenters:

Mr. Daniel Townsend went to Queen’s University, Canada as an exchange student with the assistance of a CUSAC bursary. He spent one academic year at Queen’s and returned to the UWI to complete his degree in International Relations.

Mr. Maduke Kula, 5th Year Medical Student. Mr. Kula spent two years at the University of Botswana studying Pure and Applied Sciences before coming to the UWI to pursue his MB.BS degree. He is the President of the Botswana Students’ Association in Jamaica.

Miss Chanana Maunge, 1st Year Medical Student. She spent two years at University of Botswana studying Pure and Applied Sciences before coming to the UWI to pursue her MB.BS degree. She is the Vice President of the Botswana Students’ Association in Jamaica.

Mr. Gustaf Olsson (Incoming student from Malmo University, Sweden to the UWI)

Miss Sara Estin (Incoming student from Stockholm University, Sweden to the UWI)

Chair:
Miss Hermine Tyrell
Senior Administrative Assistant
International Student Office, Mona
The University of the West Indies
12.45 – 14.30
LUNCHEON

ADDRESS

HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: CHALLENGES AND TRENDS –
A paper prepared by Dr. Sueli Pires, Deputy Director & Academic Co-ordinator, UNESCO/IESALC

Guest Presenter:
Mr. Paulo Fontani
Programme Manager, Education
UNESCO/IESALC, Kingston Cluster office for the Caribbean

Mr Fontani holds a Master’s Degree in Law with a specialisation in international law and human rights from the University of Pisa (Italy), and a Master in Education and International Development from the Institute of Education, University of London (UK), with a final dissertation on the human, social and economic cost of violence in school.


In 1999-2000 Mr Fontani worked as Regional Education Officer with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo; and in 2002-2003 he was posted to the UNESCO Office in Kabul, Afghanistan, as education officer for the post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

Since December 2005 Mr Fontani manages the sub-regional education programme at the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean in Kingston.

Chair:
Ms. Annette Insanally
Co-ordinator
Latin American and Caribbean Centre (LACC), The UWI
14.30 – 15.30
SUMMARY & CLOSING SESSION

15.30
BUS TOUR

20.00
CULTURAL EVENT- The University Singers in Concert
Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts
The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus
Mr. C. William Iton  
University Registrar

Miss Lilieth Nelson  
Senior Programme Officer & Head  
International Programmes

Mrs. Florence Francis  
Office Manager, Office of Administration

Mrs. Jennifer Green  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
International Programmes

Mrs. Beverly Hunter  
Administrator, International Programmes

Mr. Patrick Anglin  
Senior IT Officer, Office of Administration

Miss Allison Fung  
Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor

Miss Annette Insanally  
Co-ordinator, Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC)

Miss Ann Marie Witter  
Senior Assistant Registrar, Student Affairs, Admissions

Miss Hermine Tyrell  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
International Student Office, Mona

Mrs. Andrea McNish  
Manager, Accounting & Financial Operations

Mr. Anthony Perry  
Senior Programme Officer  
Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies

Mrs. Carol Williams  
Administrative Secretary, Admissions Office