

Kingston University London

Wednesday 19th November 2008, 5pm

Rm JG3001, John Galsworthy Building, Penrhyn Road

Professor Elspeth Jones
Professor of the Internationalisation of Higher Education and
International Dean, Leeds Metropolitan University

World-wide horizons at Leeds Metropolitan University

Definitions of 'internationalisation' are many and varied. Some institutions consider it to be about their standing in international league tables, the recruitment of the best staff and the best students from around the world. Within that group, too many institutions still see international students primarily as a source of income rather than bringing value to their work. Yet increased competition in trans-national education means a different approach which values the contribution international students make to the institution. Alongside this, too few universities consider that internationalisation is about the home students, about broadening the perspectives of the whole student and staff body and creating opportunities for a powerful learning community which can deepen the Higher Education experience as a whole for every member of that community.

Leeds Metropolitan University situates the values of 'world-wide horizons' at the heart of the university experience, seeing international students as a source of cultural capital and intentional diversity, enriching the learning experience both for home students and for each other, and expanding staff horizons. As an internationalised university, we offer opportunities to enhance the global perspectives of all students and staff, not only those studying away from their home country, and not only as a formal part of the curriculum. We seek to build on the positive benefits that can accrue from international and cross-cultural experiences in all aspects of university life and use internationalisation as a means to embrace diversity in all its forms. This workshop will consider the impact on staff and students when an institution adopts and supports such measures and show how this can help develop employability skills. It will demonstrate how Leeds Met has used its

internationalisation strategy to bring about cultural change and will provide tangible and practical examples which can be applied in different contexts.

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Elspeth Jones is Professor of the Internationalisation of Higher Education and International Dean at Leeds Metropolitan University. She is responsible for leading the University's ambitious internationalisation plans. These include all aspects of the international student experience, from recruitment to alumni relations, internationalisation for home students, and associated staff development. With a background in applied linguistics and teaching English as a foreign language, Elspeth has many years' experience of learning, assessment and cross-cultural issues for students from a wide variety of nationalities and cultural backgrounds. She worked at the British Council in Japan for three years and in Singapore for four years. Her output includes *Internationalising Higher Education* (edited with Sally Brown) (Routledge 2007), *Setting the Agenda for Languages in Higher Education* (edited with David Head, Mike Kelly and Teresa Tinsley) (CILT, 2003) and is currently editing her next book entitled, *Internationalisation: the Student Voice*. She has delivered many keynote speeches around the world and authored a range of chapters and papers on values-driven internationalisation and world-wide horizons. Elspeth also initiated Leeds Met's International Reflections webpage and has edited it for four years.

The seminar is being held as part of the **HE Seminar Series** being organised by Professor Mary Stuart, Deputy Vice-Chancellor. If you would like to attend please let Ellie Hibberd know on: E.Hibberd@kingston.ac.uk or 020 8417 3287 (ext 63287).