



Staffordshire
UNIVERSITY
Institute for Access Studies

International Student Retention Conference

Enhancing student retention: Using international research to improve policy and practice

Amsterdam, 5th – 7th November 2003

This is the *first* conference to share international understandings and approaches to ensuring students from under-represented groups succeed in tertiary education. The conference presents findings from comparative research from Australia, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK and US.

At the conference these findings will be disseminated for the first time. The programme includes presentations by international experts, research papers from Europe, the Antipodes and North America, workshops and panel discussions, to learn about specific retention issues for different student groups in particular countries and globally. In addition, delegates will receive a complementary copy of the comparative research report. This is an essential conference for researchers, policy makers and practitioners who are concerned with retention, progression and completion of students from equity groups.

Further conference details and the programme are available on the website:

www.staffs.ac.uk/access-studies



See overleaf for call for papers, conference booking form and accommodation information



The sparkling city of Amsterdam is built around a spider's web of criss-crossing canals and is sure to delight you. Wherever you go, you always seem to be walking (or wheeling) beside or over water. You can visit the famous Rijks museum, the Van Gogh museum and the Stedelijk museum, pop into one of the many Amsterdam cafes, or go Christmas shopping under the watchful eye of St Nicholas.

The conference is hosted by the University of Amsterdam. The research has been supported by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (www.oecd.org), the Council for Opportunity in Education, US (www.trioprograms.org), the Sutton Trust, UK (www.suttontrust.com) and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, UK (www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk).

There will be opportunities for a limited number of refereed papers to be presented during the conference. Each paper should focus on retention issues pertaining to one of the following target groups:

- first generation entrants;
- students from low income and lower socio-economic groups;
- minority groups and refugees;
- students with disabilities;
- mature 'second-chance' students.

Papers should draw on research and evidence to discuss either alternative ways of conceptualising the issues, and/or policies and practices to improve the success of these students within post-compulsory learning. Papers should focus on one of three levels of intervention: the education system (macro), the institution (meso) or the individual/group (micro); or compare initiatives at different levels.

Abstracts of up to 250 words should be submitted electronically to the European Access Network: m.foong@westminster.ac.uk. Abstracts will be considered on a first come first served basis, and decisions will be made by the review panel within four weeks of receipt. Presentations are expected to be for approximately 20 minutes, followed by questions and discussion. There will be an opportunity for papers to be published in the international peer-reviewed journal *Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning*.

Cost of Conference: £325 for EAN members, £395 for non-EAN members (membership details available on www.wmin.ac.uk/ean)

Cost of Conference Dinner: per person @ £45 = £.....

(The conference cost includes attendance at the three-day event, lunch, tea/coffee and a copy of the research findings. It does not include accommodation)

Would you like accommodation information? Yes ☐ No, I will find my own ☐ (Please tick appropriate box)

The following social programme has been arranged to allow you to meet colleagues informally and to extend your international networks. Wednesday 5th November: Canal boat tour of Amsterdam and Indonesian meal, Thursday 6th November: Conference Dinner, Friday 7th November: Heineken Brewery tour. Details of the social programme are available on the website www.staffs.ac.uk/access-studies and will be sent on receipt of your booking form.

Please complete the form below and send to: The EAN Secretariat, International Education Office, University of Westminster,
16 Little Titchfield Street, London, W1W 7UW. (Tel + 44 (0) 20 7911 5868 Fax + 44 (0) 20 7911 5132)

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Title Surname First Name

Address

Telephone Fax E-mail

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to the EAN

Credit Card (please circle) VISA MASTERCARD Amount paid

Name as on card

[illegible]

Signature of cardholder Date