

The Oxford Centre for
Staff Development

OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY



ICED

The International
Consortium
for Educational
Development
in Higher Education

Executive Summary



ICED, The International Consortium for Educational Development, has been established to develop teaching and learning methods in higher education through international collaboration between existing national educational development networks.

1 The Oxford Centre for Staff Development is one of the world's largest providers of education development services to higher education. It runs over 300 courses a year for lecturers in over 100 Universities in the UK and overseas in Australia, Canada, Holland, Hong Kong, Germany, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and the USA. It provides expertise on teaching and learning in higher education through a large network of specialist consultants, publishes manuals collating best practice in higher education and directs large national research and development projects.

2 Our aim is to establish a permanent International Consortium for the development of teaching and learning methods in higher education. While most countries with developed higher education systems have a range of national organisations for sharing expertise and best practice, there is relatively little sharing internationally and less developed higher education systems often have very poor access to expertise.

3 While higher education systems differ considerably in structure and employ a rich variety of methods, there is a universal concern for the quality of undergraduate teaching and learning in the face of declining resources, increased student numbers and the diversity of students. The proposed consortium, by providing a basis for networking and sharing expertise on an international level will address and help solve these problems. The aim is not to duplicate the role of existing national networks but to supplement them through international links.

Once an effective international network has been established, educational development services can be offered to higher education systems in developing countries.

4 The main national educational development networks have all committed themselves to support the establishment of an international consortium, including the national networks of Australasia (HERDSA: Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia), Canada (STLHE: Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education), Germany (AHD:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Hochschuledidactic), the UK (SEDA: Staff and Educational Development Society) and the USA (POD: Professional and Organisational Development). The Oxford Centre for Staff Development funded a meeting of the Presidents of these organisations together with other interested parties (such as the Head of the HEQC: Higher Education Quality Council) in Oxford in July 1993 and established the International Consortium, based in Oxford. A number of Task Groups have been established to progress a range of activities including support for the establishment of new national educational development networks for Austria, Spain and Sweden and the mounting of an international conference on work based learning to take place in 1994.

5 The purpose of the Consortium is to support the improvement of teaching and learning in higher education through networking and other forms of cooperation and collaboration among those with a responsibility for educational development.

In particular the Consortium:

(i) improves, through sponsored research, professional practice in teaching in higher education;

(ii) promotes, through training and publications, the dissemination to practising teachers in higher education of relevant research about teaching and learning;

(iii) provides, through symposia and conferences, a forum for the discussion of significant emergent teaching and learning issues in higher education worldwide;

(v) facilitates, through exchanges and opportunities for cooperative ventures, the professional development of those working as educational developers in higher education worldwide;

(vi) promotes, through meetings and interchange of information, cooperation and liaison among national and international networks, groups and associations with complementary purposes and activities.

The Consortium will address itself to educational development issues which are common across national higher education systems, where developments within one system can benefit others and where international perspectives and cooperation can more effectively address common problems.

6 Plans for a permanent Consortium have been prepared and costed and involve the following seven phases:

- Phase 1 a seed grant for starting up;
- Phase 2 funding for the first international conference, on work-based learning;
- Phase 3 funding for international publications collating existing materials currently only available nationally;
- Phase 4 funding for the promotion and development of the Consortium within national networks;
- Phase 5 funding for the establishment of a permanent office and staff;
- Phase 6 funding for a resource centre and library to develop an international collection of educational development and training materials;
- Phase 7 funding for the establishment of an international consultancy network, supported by training of consultants and training materials.

Conference, training, consultancy and conference components of ICED plans are designed to be self-financing once established, and capable of cross-subsiding support for higher education systems in developing countries.

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