



## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

**Project No:** 169/03

**Project Title:** "Plagiarism and Cultural Values: Preventing Plagiarism among international business and management post-graduate students"

**Date:** 21/03/2005

### 1. With reference to your project plan, what have been your achievements during the last quarter?

The project started in January 2005. Since then the team has made considerable progress:

A full project meeting was held in early February in Lancaster. It was attended also by our HEA advisor, Steve Outram. A second full project meeting is planned in May 2005, again in Lancaster. It is to be followed by a first steering group meeting that is to be held in London, at the London School of Economics in early June 2005. In addition to these formal meetings the team has established rapport on email and through telephone conferencing. Face-to-face meetings are used to discuss strategy. During the first one we revised the project plan to take into account the late start date (see below) and to make more detailed plans for project A (country visits). We finalised the steering group membership. We will use the second meeting to clarify the research plan for project B and C, which will start in July.

At this stage we have a much clearer idea what it is that we are trying to achieve during project A and we have made the arrangements necessary for our first imminent visit to Greece (7-18<sup>th</sup> April). Over a couple of months now we have established contact with relevant institutions, agencies and individuals in all of the countries that are to be visited. We have put together a visiting schedule that accommodates the academic year in the UK with the most advantageous periods to conduct research in the higher education context in the various countries.

<b>Greece</b>	Early April 2005 to Athens. This pilot visit is intended to test strategy and tools. If necessary, it is to be followed by later visits with other team members and to other places (e.g. Patras, Thessalonica).	Anja, Edgar & Niall
<b>India</b>	Mid-November 2005 (all) Bangalore, followed by Mumbai or Delhi	Anja, Lucas & Niall
<b>China</b>	March / April 2006 (all) Guangzhou, followed by Beijing or Shanghai	Anja, Edgar & Niall

In addition to making practical arrangements for project A, we have managed to identify a number of key players whose research is highly important for the project; the literature review is ongoing. Our external evaluator has

drawn our attention to the work done on plagiarism and international students in Australia and we have established first contact with this group. In addition to our own proactive work aimed at establishing a dynamic network with relevant scholars and practitioners, we have been contacted by a number of people who are interested in our approach to plagiarism among international students. A BBC journalist, Hugh Levinson, came to Lancaster to conduct an interview with Lucas Introna that is going to be broadcast on Radio 4 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April at 11am.

The following consultations took place during the reporting period:

- with our external evaluator (in Oxford) to discuss project progress and literature,
- with the Student Welfare staff at the British Council in Manchester to discuss their interest and input into the project.
- with the International Student Officer of the LSESU to better understand the relationship between the NUS and individual student unions as regards international student policies

Finally, three successful meetings with Beatrice Merrick (UKCOSA), Susan Glover (British Council) and Chris Park (LUMS) resulted in the recruitment of these three individuals onto the steering group of the project. Chris Park will act as the chair.

The Research Associate, Anja Timm attended the following events:

- *International Forum*, internal event at Lancaster University focused on international students (26/01/05)
- BEST / FDTL Dissemination Meeting at the Open University, Milton Keynes (02/02/05)
- Plagiarism workshop, internal event at LSE (08/03/05)
- Plagiarism workshop organised by the Oxford Centre for Staff & Learning Support (10/03/05)
- *Broadening Our Horizons*, policy forum organised by UKCOSA in London (22/03/05)

Each of these allowed for new connections for the project to be forged, be it internal within the LSE and LU or externally, with those who share an interest in international students and / or the issue of plagiarism. Where appropriate, attendance at these events was combined with visits to the partner institution in London in order to identify and confer with the relevant stake holders (Teaching & Learning, Registry, Partnership Programme, etc.).

We decided to use the title *Student Diversity & Academic Writing Project* for public consumption purposes. This is used for flyers and for our website as this is less likely to be misconstrued, which is especially important during the early period of fieldwork.

## **2. Performance against plan (plan started in Jan 2005 as noted above)**

Has there been any variance from planned activities?       **Yes**

If so, please say what the variance is and what the causes were

1. Due to the delayed start date we had to adjust the timetable, as was discussed with Steve Outram in February during the first full project meeting. Project A, B and C have to start almost simultaneously, rather than in the staggered fashion that was originally envisaged.

Project B has to be moved forwards. It focuses on new international students as they arrive and has to take place in accordance with the academic year. It is already being prepared, for in July / August of 2005 we will be meeting students as soon as they arrive for pre-session English courses in London and Lancaster. This means that we are encountering them seven months from the start date of the project, rather than after one full calendar year as originally intended. Project C runs parallel to project B.

Meanwhile project A is being spread out into Y2. Rather than undertake all of the country visits within the first twelve months of the project, we will have to do one trip in March / April 2006. Again, this is due to the academic calendar of the countries that we are visiting (there is no point in going to meet students and academics when the universities are not in session) and because of the lengthy preparations that are required to guarantee successful research trips (e.g. the visa application process, vaccinations, establishing quality contacts and cooperation in the countries, etc.). Project D was scheduled to begin only Y3 of the project and it is envisaged that it will run according to plan.

2. Having consulted with our HEA advisor, we would like to note the following change of plan to the original proposal. Within project A we were planning to conduct four country visits, i.e. to better understand the educational backgrounds and practices in the biggest sending countries: China, India, Malaysia and Greece. For the reasons given below we are no longer planning to pursue a country visit to Malaysia.

Based on preliminary research on current and former ITMOC and ADMIS students it appears that there are almost no students from Malaysia on either of these programmes. Whilst it is true that many Malaysian students come to the UK to study, many of these are undergraduates and others are doing primarily quantitative degrees (Accounting & Finance, Operational Research, Actuarial Science, etc.). Given their under-representation in the courses for which we have arranged access, it is unlikely that we will be able shadow the adaptation of Malaysian students to British academia in project B. Hence there is little reason to go to Malaysia in the first place.

During the full project meeting held in February, we discussed substituting Malaysia for the next biggest group of international students that is represented on the courses, but there is no one country, only a region (Africa) that could be identified. Thus, we are planning to concentrate our efforts on the three remaining countries instead, i.e. visit more places or spending more time especially in India and China.

If applicable, what is being done to get back on track?

n/a

Will the project plan need to be revised?

No (not in contents)

**3. a) Are you experiencing any problems which are impeding progress? If applicable, what are these?**

There are no problems with the progress of the project.

**b) Are there any unresolved problems from last report?**

As stated in our last QR, the project has had a delayed starting date. However, since project money was being paid to the University of Lancaster from September 2004 onwards, we understand that the start date cannot be officially amended. It follows that the team will have to apply for a formal extension for the three months, i.e. September 2007 to January 2008 (see the letter from Steve Outram dated 22/03, in response to our first progress report).

#### **4. Notes**

The notes from the first full project meeting held in February 2005 were reviewed by Steve Outram.