Research Matters

*A roundup of current projects and research around MMU*

**TRAFFIC project**

The full title of this project is ‘Transforming Assessment and Feedback For Institutional Change’ and it is partially funded by JISC. My responsibility on this project is to review processes and procedures connected to assessment to inform the specification of any electronic assessment management system which might be proposed. There would be no point in developing a system which doesn’t fully meet the needs of the diverse range of assignments offered at MMU. We’re looking at a range of aspects including marking criteria, submission procedures, assignment types, assignment briefs, reassessment and academic appeals. For the latest reports, please see the TRAFFIC project website or contact Rachel Forsyth r.m.forsyth@mmu.ac.uk

**Students as Partners project**

This project is being carried out in partnership with the Students’ Union, and is supported by the Higher Education Academy. It is exploring ways to involve students more meaningfully in curriculum development. This isn’t about curriculum content, but is looking at practical ways to make the best use of the course rep system to engage and motivate students. A series of workshops will be held in the summer term. HEA Students as Partners project website. Also see this article at The Guardian.
Educating Employable Global Citizens project update

This is an HEA-funded project under the Teaching Development Grants scheme and is running until January 2014. The aim of the project is to explore current understandings and expectations of global citizenship education across the university, and to develop and pilot a university-wide award for students under the MMU Futures umbrella. A parallel staff initiative is also in development. The research phase is well under way and we would like to thank all those of you who have already participated. We are collecting data on the perceptions of staff and students in relation to global citizenship and possibilities for global citizenship education. From the staff survey, initial analysis confirms that ‘global citizenship’ is a multifaceted term with understandings ranging from conceptions of ‘connectedness’ and ‘belonging’ to specific world issues, to personal attributes and skills. Charlotte Page, the project research assistant, has also interviewed a number of staff from all faculties to gain further insight into how we as a university conceive of our place in the world. Students are also being encouraged to complete a Global Citizens questionnaire and student focus groups have been organised to hear about students’ international experiences and skills as well as their ideas concerning how MMU can best help in providing students with recognition of their global citizenship achievements and aspirations. Early indications are that there is a wealth of activity that goes on between students both inside and outside the classroom as they meet others and exchange experiences. The next implementation phase involves designing flexible staff development that will work with staff ideas around internationalising the curriculum and for students, a pilot Global Citizens Award scheme under MMU Futures, with a range of activities to capture, reflect on and recognise achievement in international activity, language and intercultural skills. For more information about the project visit [the project website](#) or contact Alicia Prowse a.prowse@mmu.ac.uk or Charlotte Page [charlotte.page@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:charlotte.page@mmu.ac.uk) 0161 247 6179