Connecting Scotland – how Scottish organisations engage internationally

West Lothian College

College International Activity

Key Issues and current thinking:

- The college is not actively seeking to recruit students from overseas as a consequence of the demands within administrative requirements. We have concluded that this type of activity would only be cost effective if taken forward on a large scale and within a specialist area of activity.

- Applications from overseas students are considered on an individual basis; we have been dealing with very small numbers.

- Experience would suggest that partnership work with overseas colleges can be beneficial but unpredictable. For example, we started working with an organisation in Egypt but could not follow through on the project due to civil unrest on Cairo.

- Current emphasis is on developing an international aspect of the student experience to ensure that as many learners as possible have the opportunity to undertake part of a programme or work experience in other countries. This area of development required additional funding and to this end ERASAMUS and Leonardo funding has been accessed. Notably applications can be time consuming and costly in staff hours.

- Internationalisation has had staff development benefits and a number of lecturers have had the opportunity to participate in exchange visits.

- It seems likely that digital learning will provide opportunities to export learning and encourage international collaboration.

- There is, arguably, a place for a level of national co-ordination of international work.

George Hotchkiss
Assistant Principal Curriculum and Innovation

May 2015