

## **Embedding International Development Perspectives at the University of Ulster**

### Abstract

This paper will outline the initiatives undertaken within the UNESCO Centre to promote a commitment to International Development at the University of Ulster since 2002. We will begin by providing an overview of the contemporary cultural and political challenges faced in Northern Ireland, with specific reference to a study conducted by the Northern Ireland Equality Commission (2009) *The Changing Face of Prejudice*. We then discuss the evolution of the International Development programme from its roots in the *Embedding the Global Dimension in Teacher Education* project that focused on initial teacher education in the School of Education. We present some of the findings of a study that was conducted looking at how students' knowledge, skills and attitudes/values were affected by the introduction of a global citizenship component into the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) programme.

The substantive focus of the paper will be a discussion of the challenges and successes of the International Development Programme – a DFID-funded institution-wide initiative that has run for the past three years. This paper will explain the processes by which the project has attempted to engage colleagues and senior management in embedding a commitment to International Development perspectives at UU. It will address three key strands of work: teaching and learning, the research agenda and academic enterprise activities. A reference to the findings of the external evaluation of the project will be included in the discussion to highlight the lessons learnt to date.