**Non-UK Officer report**

July – October 27th

**UKCISA Integration Summit**

The 2015 Warwick Integration Summit focused on:

* *the internationalisation of higher education*: Dr. Juliana Roth from Munich University gave a talk about how German universities struggle to bring international students as opposed to UK universities which have the advantage of providing English-taught programmes. Further there was an open discussion about why universities aim to be more international. Reasons such as the development of the global work market, the want for international publications and an increased mobility of both students and professors were discussed.
* *enhancing students’ global skills:* Dr. Helen Spencer-Oatey from University of Warwick presented her study about ‘What makes a global student?’. The main findings of her work highlighted that friendships and group work between home students and non-UK students increase both parties’ global skills.

\*Warwick created the 3Rs Tool/Cognitive Reflection that can be used by students who spend time studying abroad:

1. *Report*
2. *Reflect*
3. *Re-evaluate*
* *discussing what a global mindset means:* in one of the workshops*,* Abi Sharma from Queen’s Mary University suggested the need to clarify what a global mindset entails. We discussed that skills such as adaptability, resilience and tolerance can be developed whilst studying abroad. However, it is important that students are aware of all these abilities and that they emphasise them to employers.

*Abi suggested that students can use the STAR technique to evaluate their skills;* the STAR technique is also promoted by the Careers service at Worcester University.

Self-reflection and ideas I got for the SU and the Non-UK Officer (myself):

* promote studying abroad
* establish a ‘World Society’?
* use Eramus students to promote the Erasmus scheme in the University
* blog competitions focused on international experiences and/or global employability – *maybe get Bright Futures Society to get involved*.
* Sussex University has a week in which they celebrate diversity (called One World Sussex); similar to Go Green Week -> One World Worcester?

**Surveys**

* In the beginning of June, I ran an online survey that was shared on social media. My aim was to find out what non-UK students would like to see happening in the upcoming year and I thought it was an efficient way of reaching them given the fact that summer break had already started.
* The response rate wasn’t ideal as I’ve had roughly 40 responses, however I was pleased with the suggestions they made and those who did respond took it seriously.
* **Results**
* Most students said they would prefer monthly events.
* Suggestions for events: board games night; one-day trips; Easter/summer break party; international café.
* Language Cafes responses:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I like the idea. I would attend the courses. | 59.09% |
| –I don't really like the idea; wouldn't attend the courses. | 22.73% |
| –I like the idea and I would even be willing to teach. | 18.18% |

**Other matters**

* I took over the Worcester University International Students **Facebook group** - I often see posts of people who promote writing services or dissertation help services that are against the rule of academic integrity and originality. I deleted them all and removed the members and because this happened frequently I also decided to ask every new member is they’re part of the University or not.
* **Informal talks** with new students – I believe that during summer I maintained a good online presence and given the fact that both current and new students have already contacted me in regards to different matters, I thought it was a good approach.
* **International Induction Week** – I took part in the International Treasure Hunt and games night and met most of the new comers in their first week. In all these encounters, I tried to promote both my role and the Students’ Union’s role and I believe students are aware of their representatives. Following this week, I had plenty of students who got in touch with me for various issues they encountered in their first week and I managed to point them in the right direction.

**Planning (July) – The International Committee**

Ideally: at least 1 representative from each year of study; diverse body of students.

**Roles**

**Language Café Coordinator x2**: to organise the language cafes, liaise with the teachers and students, organise rooms, dates & times, ensure the cafes are run smoothly, take a record of attendance and gather feedback from both students and teachers.

**Secretary:** to take the minutes of each committee meeting, help with the promotion of activities and events.

**Event Organiser x3**: to plan and organise events, organise dates, time & location,

**Advertising & Promotion**: to actively promote events, create Facebook events, posters.

**Publicity Officer:** to write events’ or campaigns’ descriptions and promotion material.

**Creative Designer**: to design posters & any other promotion materials.

**International Committee recruiting & selection**

Following Freshers’ Week, I sent an email to advertise the committee and ask for volunteers. Our first meeting took place on the 9th of October and that is when the 2015/2016 committee was formed. These are the members and their respective roles:

Language café Coordinators: Andreea Sabau, Elena Beatrice Varhanyovski.

Event Organisers: Daria Nowak, Maria Tammiste

Secretary: Aleksandra Tsvetanova

Publicity Officer: Vito Pauletic

Creative Designer: Alex

Advertising & Promotion Officers: Anca Constantin, Martin Salvato, Huy Quoc Pham

Incoming & Exchange Students representatives: Christophe Berton, Marcus Strand.

UoW International Office representative: Diana Iusco

These representatives are

* from all years of study
* coming from different countries
* enrolled on different programmes, including on Erasmus exchange programmes.

As a team we have planned a series of events for this year. Following the surveys I conducted in June, we will try to organise at least an event per month.

**October events:**

**MODERN LANGUAGES TALK –22nd of October**, Bynion Building

In the summer I was contacted by Isabelle Schafer, a lecturer in Modern Languages at the University. She had planned a talk about pursuing a PGCE in teaching modern languages and she thought this would be of interest to International students. I liked the idea she put forward and along with my committee, we decided to promote the event and help her spread the word.

**International Pub Crawl – 23rd of October**

Issues with this event were amended.

International Committee’s future plans:

* get the Language Cafes up and running;
* trip to Birmingham Christmas market in partnership with two students societies, Worcester Bright Futures and Economics Society.
* Worcester Christmas fayre ‘crawl’ – we’ll advertise this to all our International students and suggest a meeting point to go together as a group
* Christmas Party in December: potentially on the 4th of December, in Mode for a Christmas meal.
* 8th of December – pre-Christmas break event in cooperation with Dr Fiona Howarth; students will be asked to bring a traditional Christmas dish from their countries of origin.
* TEDx event in April (ideally)