

Going places

Season's Greetings from the Project Team. We hope you have some time to relax during the festive season. Thank you for your support and interest in the project so far and we look forward to catching up in 2016.

Recent activity

Going Places continues to document practice in international social work student exchange. A survey of Australian Schools of Social Work was recently completed, with 27 out of 30 schools participating. Qualitative interviews are underway. We've been spreading the word about the issues and challenges in international student exchange by presenting at a number of conferences including TASA and ANZSWER 2015.

Survey and qualitative interviews

Early findings from the survey indicate 85% of responding schools of social work participate in some form of student exchange, with India being the most popular destination in our region, followed by Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia. Institutional arrangements around international social work student exchange tend to be ad-hoc, based on personal relationships and commitments of staff. Exchange programs are focused on achieving outcomes such as internationalisation of the curriculum for sending institutions, with some evidence that a range of reciprocal arrangements are in place.

Survey findings have informed the selection of institutions for participation in qualitative interviews. Interviewing has commenced and will continue into February 2016. We are inviting 10 institutions in Australia and a number of host institutions in India, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Fiji to participate.



www.goingplaces.edu.au

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Conferences

The Project Team has had a busy year presenting on international social work student exchange at the Conference of Discovery and Innovation in Hong Kong, the ANZSWER Symposium in Melbourne, the HERDSA mini-conference in Townsville and TASA 2015 in Cairns. Presentations included a critical review of literature relating to collaboration and reciprocity in international social work student exchange and the impacts of neo-liberalism on exchange. Visit the resources page of our website to view the presentations <http://www.goingplaces.edu.au>.

Workshops

Going Places will host a workshop at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016 in Seoul. The workshop will build on the survey and qualitative interview findings and provide an opportunity to share experiences, critique assumptions and reflect on emerging themes.

A series of collaborative workshops will be held over June - August 2016 in Australia and internationally to test research analysis. Visit our website and sign up for project updates so we can let you know when and where project workshops will be held.

Learn about Going Places in 3 minutes

Going Places was successful in a recent round of JCU Teaching-Research Nexus Grants, resulting in the production of a 3 minute video. The video is available on our website at: <http://www.goingplaces.edu.au/resources>. It provides the story of how our experiences with international social work student exchange led to the recognition of the need for more research and discussion around good practice, with a particular focus on benefits to host institutions.

Going Places on twitter

Follow Going Places on twitter [@GoingPlacesEdu](https://twitter.com/GoingPlacesEdu) for updates and project news. Let us know your twitter name so we can follow you too! If you would like more information about the project please contact our Project Manager, Elise Howard at: elise.howard@jcu.edu.au

Exchange activity

JCU recently hosted students from the De Paul Institute of Science and Technology (DiST) in India for an exchange visit to Townsville and Cairns. The students, who had no prior experience of travel outside of India, soaked up a range of opportunities including visiting local social work agencies, presenting on social work practice in India and sampling pizza. Our visitors were even lucky enough to view whales during a visit to Magnetic Island.



Going Places team member Peter Jones is currently in India guiding a cohort of JCU students through an exchange program designed to expose them to local community development projects and Indian social work practice. The students will return in mid-December and will be challenged to reflect, not only on the exchange experience itself, but also the influence of the experience on their ways of viewing and being in the world.

