

**Title:**                   **Cultural, Pedagogical & Administrative Observations and Reflections on Transferring a Taught PG Cert Course to a Middle Eastern University**

**Presenters:**       **Viv Lever and Adrian Brockett**  
York St John University

## **Abstract:**

### **Session Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

1. Have increased awareness of the issues of educational- and national- cultural issues facing educational developers delivering UK-devised PG Cert programmes abroad, where English is a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> language.
2. Considered and discussed questions of relevance to their own future planning.

### **Session Outline**

Key issues to be addressed are:

The delivery of the York St John Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice in Bahrain has challenged UK-based lecturers and staff developers as well as lecturers and senior executives at the University of Bahrain. Flexibility, international tolerance and understanding, developing the developers and participants alike, continues to be an evolving experience.

Innovation and flexibility, the giving and receiving feedback in this context, and personal and institutional expectations have all been challenged.

The presenters have made 6 visits to Bahrain, and will discuss their experiences as follows:

- Cultural:
  - orientation & awareness/ culture shock
  - impact of, and sensitivities towards, indigenous culture affecting practical delivery and course content
- Pedagogic issues, from the perspectives of:
  - Indigenous lecturer-participants
  - UK lecturer deliverers
  - Concepts of learning & teaching for students
- Administrative on-going flexibility and adjustments needed towards aspects of local organisation
- Evaluating the IMPACT of delivering a UK initiated staff development tool, accredited by the HEA, on all participants.

## **Session Activities and Approximate Timings**

The two presenters will share aspects of their participation in planning and delivering in turn, focussing on 3 aspects as indicated above.

Intended timings:

12.00 – 12.10: introductory contextualising of Bahrain, contractual arrangements, planning & staffing

12.10-12.15 cultural

12.15-12.20 pedagogic

12.20-12.25 administrative aspects

These will include images of the local context and lecturers at the University of Bahrain, and will lead to:

12.25-12.30 comment on the impact upon the experiences of the local participants' careers, the University of Bahrain, and the impact on the home-delivered course in York.

12.30-12.45 Discussion with attendees. Indicative question:

" To what extent is such an experience one of 'transferring' and/ or 'transforming', and for whom?"

Our method of evaluation will be concise one-word feedback on individual post-it notes from participants before they leave the room.

This will be collated and returned to SEDA conference organisers if required.