

EDITORIAL

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Welcome to the first issue of the *International Student Experience Journal (ISEJ)*, a new on-line peer-reviewed publication produced by and aimed at those involved in the field of researching, teaching and providing services to international students in higher education in the UK and other English speaking countries. The journal warmly welcomes and encourages contributions from students themselves.

The idea for a new journal with a new angle and approach was born out of the 2011 BALEAP PIM hosted by the University of Leicester and entitled ‘How good is the international student experience in British universities and how can we help to improve it?’. This conference brought together a variety of interested parties to discuss the international student experience, formally through presentations and a round table discussion, and informally over coffee and lunch. One of the stated aims of organisers at the time was that the conference should be a starting point and a catalyst for discussion in this area, rather than a one-off event enjoyed by all and forgotten within months by most. Feedback from those who attended the conference showed enthusiasm for the diversity of participants which included international students and academics, as well as the idea of finding a forum to continue the discussions and debates and house the ideas and suggestions that people had brought to the conference. And thus the seed which was to grow into *ISEJ* was sown.

The first issue embodies what we had in mind when we set out to determine what we would like to see in the journal. We hoped that it would offer a forum to broaden the discussion and make an active and positive contribution to ensuring that the question of the international student experience remains at the forefront of our thinking in a time when HE institutions are increasingly judged in terms of profit, and quantity rather than quality is often the norm. We are very excited about the diversity of contributions that the first issue contains, including two fascinating first-hand student experience accounts. The issue helps to reflect the many positive things already happening, which without a means of sharing, we otherwise might never hear about

We hope you agree that *ISEJ* is and will be a new unique forum in offering both theoretical perspectives and practical ideas around the area of the international student experience. Most of all we hope it makes a positive contribution in ensuring that the higher education experience for international students is exciting and rewarding.

The editorial team would like to thank all those who have helped to make this first issue possible both directly with contributions, reviewing and revising and indirectly with ideas, suggestions and encouragement. We would especially like to thank Dan Jones and Louise Pullen from the University of Leicester for their help at the 23rd hour with proof reading. Above all, we’d like to thank the international students who help to make our professional lives so rich and diverse. Enjoy, and we look forward to your comments and contributions to future issues. Why not comment on what you have read and share your thoughts via Twitter or Facebook:

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