

## **Research led teaching: enhancing student involvement by using case studies**

Carried out by: Dr Irma Pasukeviciute, Plymouth Business School

The aims of this project were to:

- improve student research skills by allowing them to participate in the actual writing of case studies
- introduce the concept of sustainability in the logistics management module
- encourage interaction and creative thinking between students by introducing role play in group work
- introduce real opportunities for students to publish their research
- use the case studies created by the MSc students in the undergraduate modules to further highlight the importance of the student led research

### **Number of students involved:**

2006-2008 – approx 130 MSc students

### **Findings/ outcomes/ impacts:**

During a period of two years a number of changes were implemented in the core logistics module for post graduate students in order to achieve the aims of the project. Students were asked to work in multinational groups and their goal was to write and present a real-world case study. Support and guidance were provided during meetings with the lecturer and through Q&A system on the portal, to ensure that each group was on the right track.

One of the main challenges was to introduce the concept of sustainability in a way that was both relevant to the subject and interesting for the students. This was achieved by incorporating controversial statements and suggestions into the discussion sessions. Students were keen to discuss ideas which challenged existing theories and as a result many interesting ideas emerged during these sessions.

Probably the most important outcome of this project is a collection of high quality case studies, some of which could be published and most could be used to support and enhance teaching of the undergraduate students. Two conference posters and an academic paper also emerged as part of this project.

### **Conference posters:**

Pasukeviciute, I. and Pyne, R. Poster entitled "Student Perceptions of Sustainability in Shipping and Logistics", VC's Learning and Teaching Conference, University of Plymouth, 4 July, 2008

Pasukeviciute, I. and Pyne, R. Poster entitled "Raising Sustainability Awareness in International Logistics Management Students through an Enquiry Based Postgraduate Curriculum", All Our Futures Conference, University of Plymouth, 9-11 September, 2008

**Paper:**

Raising Sustainability Awareness among an International Group of Business and Management Students through an Enquiry Based Postgraduate Programme. Submitted to International Journal of Management Education (*currently under review*).