

InCurriculum

Developing the AchieveAbility of an inclusive curriculum in Higher Education drawn from learning and teaching strategies for students with Specific Learning Differences
www.incurriculum.org.uk



InCurriculum is a collaborative project between Norwich University College of the Arts, University of Westminster and De Montfort University. The three year project is funded by a grant from the Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowship Scheme: 2007 - 2010

The project aims to develop examples of an inclusive curriculum for HE, building on the expertise and practice set in place in the UK by the AchieveAbility National Network. InCurriculum is working to transfer its outcomes to the HE sector, investigating and piloting mechanism for mainstreaming an **inclusive teaching and learning environment for all students**.

Outputs include;

- 9 modules packages
- Report on good practice
- 2 dissemination conferences
- Network of HE experts
- Model of inclusive curriculum
- Staff development materials

Benefits for students:

- ✓ Stimulating, supportive and accessible learning which assists them in achieving their full potential, irrespective of learning difference or learning style

Benefits for staff:

- ✓ Confidence that all students are being treated fairly.
- ✓ Improved student engagement and motivation.
- ✓ Exploration of new practices through cross-fertilisation with other disciplines.

Benefits for Universities:

- ✓ Adherence to the social model of learning difference.
- ✓ Improved student retention and attainment.
- ✓ Focuses policy on identifying the impact of structural, organisational and attitudinal barriers to equality and inclusion.

Umbrella research question: Can HE teaching and assessment be made more inclusive and accessible to all students by drawing upon practices developed for those with specific learning differences?

Sub-questions: Are the recommendations of the AchieveAbility project transferable to HE?

- Are the visual approaches often used in Art & Design transferable to other disciplines?
- Does modifying courses to make them more accessible improve students' response?
- What is the response of course tutors to such initiatives?

InCurriculum focuses on three modules or units in each of the three participating institutions. These are being modified and evaluated by means of an action research process over the time-span of the project. Delivery of each module is being modified each year in the light of findings.

➤ **NUCA units** are in BA(Hons) **Textiles** (Textile Futures), MA **Managing Creative Enterprise** (Career Development Unit) and FdA/BA (Hons) **Games Art and Design** (Scholarship in Games)

➤ **UoW modules** are in BA(Hons) **Graphic Information Design** (Design Discourses and Final Major Project) and BA(Hons) **Law** (Housing Law)

➤ **DMU modules** in BA(Hons) **Business** (Business Communications) and **Art and Design** (Design Management and Design Products) .

The Project Management Group and Steering Group consists of a representatives from each institution, experts from a range of disciplines and external partners from other HEIs, independent organisations, education experts and consultants. Project email: incurriculum@westminster.ac.uk