Conference or Workshop Item

Title: URB@N: the story so far

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Version: Presented version

http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/6639/
URB@N: The story so far

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Overview

• Background to URB@N
• How it works
• The story so far
• Benefits and challenges
Background to URB@N

- Student as (co)producer (McCulloch, 2009; Neary & Winn, 2009)
- “the more collaborative the relationship between student and teacher....the greater the knowledge and expertise that will be developed by both parties”. (Dunne, 2011, p4)
- Diversity in partnership models (Little, 2011)
- Wide sector interest
How it works

• **URB@N**: Undergraduate Research Bursaries at Northampton

• Undergraduate students work on a pedagogic project, alongside the member of staff who is coordinating it

• Staff propose projects, and students apply to be researchers

• Students work with the staff member(s) to plan, conduct and analyse the findings

• They contribute approx 50 hours work and receive a £500 bursary
How it works

• Students produce and present an academic poster about their projects at a presentation event
The story so far
The story so far

- Observations and reflections
- Student reflective accounts
- Evaluation data
- Research findings
Benefits

- New relationships
- Research skills
- Employability
- Enhancing the student experience
- Authentic insight
- Valuing the student voice

- Promoting pedagogic research
- Freeing capacity
- Supervisory experience
- Increasing research outputs
- Value for money
Challenges

Recruitment and project matching

Diversity of experience

Partnerships?

Quality assurance

Expectations: staff and students
What next?

• Feedback on experiences from 13-14 cohort of URB@Nites!
• Researching ‘Partnerships in practice’
• Dissemination of the Northampton approach and experiences to wider HE sector
References


• Little, S. (2011) (Ed.). Staff-student partnerships in higher education. London: Continuum
