

Title: Articulation of Chinese Students from The Hunan Institute of Engineering (HIE) into Year 3 of UHI's Mechanical and Electrical/Electronic Engineering programmes

Background Information to the project

UHI started to develop a partnership with the Hunan Institute of Engineering (HIE), China, in 2011 with a view to articulating their year 2 engineering students onto year 3 of either UHI's mechanical or electrical degrees. The delivery format was for UHI to deliver year 3 modules in China with support from Hunan staff during the semester or session. UHI were to deliver 20 hours of lecture material in country and have all L&T material available on the VLE. Hunan staff were to provide additional lectures, tutorial support and practical lab support.

Developments to support Transition into Year 3 of UHI programmes:-

1. Student support in English language development during years 1 and 2 in China
2. Development of an Engineering 'Chinese to English' technical dictionary
3. Staff development support for Hunan Institute of Engineering staff

Staff at UHI developed learning materials for specific use to Chinese students studying in years 1 and 2 of their own 'Chinese engineering degree', these materials were made available to them through UHI's VLE. The concept was to give additional support to learning English language and to support their technical English vocabulary, specifically terms and words relating to engineering principles or systems. Also, the learning materials tried to help students in their 'change' from Chinese to UHI methods and styles of learning and assessment.

The technical dictionary was developed in collaboration between staff at UHI and staff at HIE, this work has proven to be a very useful aid to students studying in China as not all technical terms are developed through the delivery of English as a foreign language.

Staff from HIE, China have made visits to UHI for a semester at a time and have undergone staff development to ensure they understood and were also competent in the use of UHI's academic standards/regulations and methods of assessment. Two HIE lecturers have visited UHI over the last three years, this is an on-going programme supported by the Hunan Provincial government.

HIE staff attended UHI classroom, lab, workshop and assessment sessions and participated in specific projects eg Chinese to English 'translation table' as a reference tool for technical English terms.