Enhancement Theme update

The Enhancement Themes are Scotland-wide initiatives that aim to improve the learning experience of students in higher education. The current theme – Student Transitions – is coordinated by an institutional team led by Ros Campbell from CAPOD. Activities and outputs from the 3-year project are summarised below.

Year 1: AY 2014-15

Consultation with students and staff identified the following areas for review and development:

1. The transition from student to professional
2. Transition through collaborative programmes
3. The transition from taught to research postgraduate study
4. Building student confidence, resilience and independence.

As well as creating plans of work to address the above strands at an institutional level, the team launched a funding scheme to support student and staff-led initiatives at a local level. 10 applications received funding.

Year 2: AY 2015-16

An extensive portfolio of work was undertaken by the team in relation to the first three strands of work noted above. Activities and outputs included:

- Sponsio Academica awareness campaign and linkage of resources to matriculation
- Revision and expansion of the Professional Skills Curriculum workshop in Professional Conduct
- Expansion of academic culture sessions and associated online resources
- Creation of online guidance for complex issues related to visas, finance and immigration
- Transition events: Thinking about a PhD in Arts/Science at St Andrews
- Establishment of new policy and regulatory governance for PGT to PGR transition
- Launch of an annual Good Practice Exchange to showcase funded initiatives
- Visual representations of student transition via a photo competition and exhibition
- 5 School-based initiatives (3 staff-led and 2 student-led) supported by the funding scheme.

Year 3: AY 2016-17

In the final year of the theme, the team will focus on: embedding initiatives that aim to build student confidence, resilience and independence; supporting School/Unit-based initiatives via the funding scheme; and developing resources on personal and academic transitions within the University’s orientation app.

Further information can be found at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/teaching/funding/enhancement/