PROJECT TITLE: Internationalising Professional Skills Development

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SUMMARY
SIIDshare is a student-run social enterprise that operates as an NGO embedded within the new Sheffield Institute for International Development (SIID) working with third sector partners in the city region and with more than 50 NGOs across the world. This project aimed to provide professional international development skills training workshops for SIIDshare through a peer-assisted learning scheme and create reusable interactive training materials for use on the SIIDshare VLE.

WHAT ISSUE WERE YOU TRYING TO ADDRESS AND WHY?
SIIDshare promotes engagement and partnership with local organisations, schools and international development organisations through various projects and internships. It provides students with practical experience of the skills needed and challenges encountered in the international development workplace and beyond. SIIDshare encourages student membership from all disciplines and all levels (UG/PGT/PGR) within the University. Engagement and partnership, particularly for students who do not have a background in International Development, involves a professional mentoring scheme and extensive training before students embark on projects with external partners. The Internationalisation of Learning and Teaching grant was used to provide training for both students and local NGOs, and to create reusable training materials.

APPROACH AND METHODS
In addition to the Internationalisation of Learning and Teaching grant, SIIDshare was awarded a grant to fund five professional skills workshops facilitated by BOND (the professional membership body for International Development NGOs). Each training workshop was facilitated by leading experts in the field with extensive NGO/International Development experience to provide groups of 20 postgraduate SIIDshare research students with professional skills training. The Internationalisation of L&T project sought to cascade these workshops to the many undergraduate
and PGT students who are now members of SIIDshare to enable them to participate in the international development projects and activities that we are undertaking and provide them with transferable skills to enhance their employability. Based on the BOND workshops, postgraduate research students with training in teaching were employed to cascade learning through a series of interactive workshops aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate taught students as well as local NGO partners on Impact Assessment; Writing Funding Proposals; Logical Frame Analysis; Advocacy; and Building better North-South Partnerships. To ensure the longevity of the project, interactive training toolkits based on training materials provided by BOND were prepared and have been uploaded to the SIIDshare virtual incubator (VLE).

**BENEFITS**

*From a Learning and Teaching Perspective*

The project contributes to:

- **The internationalisation of the curriculum** by providing students with the professional skills necessary to undertake internships with overseas partners and make an active contribution to SIIDshare’s international development projects (e.g. Malawi, Nepal, Uganda, Kenya)
- **Development of international competencies/global skills** by providing students with the background, expertise and awareness to engage with external overseas partners.
- **Internationalisation of the civic curriculum** by actively involving local stakeholders in SIIDshare and its training courses as well as projects.
- **Enhancing employability** through the internationalisation of professional skills training.

*From an Integration Perspective*

- International students are well represented among the 300 students who are involved in SIIDshare. Half the training courses were delivered by international students. Project groups are also deliberately constituted from a mix of overseas/home, academic backgrounds and levels (UG/PGT/PGR) to break away from the divisions that can characterise university learning.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- While training provides students through engaged learning with the skills to undertake international development work with external partners (a ‘learning about’ approach), skills training needs to be accompanied by mentoring and experiential learning (a ‘learning for’ approach) through international projects that encourage the development of enterprising skills.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SIIDshare:** [www.siidshare.group.shef.ac.uk/](http://www.siidshare.group.shef.ac.uk/)

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This project was supported by the Internationalisation of Learning and Teaching Fund.

As part of the Think Global project, we aim to provide resources to support the internationalisation of the learning and teaching environment. If you require further information, please contact us: lets@sheffield.ac.uk