

## Garden City Podcast Transcript 2

### Podcast Transcript

**[This transcript is automatically generated – to report any issues or request a verbatim copy, please email [cie@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:cie@liverpool.ac.uk)]**

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Hi everyone we have some guests here from the University of Liverpool talking about the collaboration between Garden City University, India and University of Liverpool. So let me introduce our guests and they can explain. What they what they are working on so. Leslie, can I start with you please?

Dr. Lesley Iwanejko

Hello, my name is Dr. Lesley Iwanejko. I'm a senior lecturer in the Institute of Life, course and Medical Sciences and I am the learning and teaching lead on a joint project between Garden City University in Bangalore, India and the University of Liverpool. Looking at postgraduate education in musculoskeletal ageing.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

You. Hello.

Prof. Helen Wallace

Hi, my name is Helen Wallace. I'm a professor of Physiology education focus. And I'm also the programme director for a Masters course which concentrates on. Research. Thank you.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

And then Chloe and Corey.

Chloe Grierson

Hello so I'm Chloe Grierson. I am a member student of clinical science. I have a biomedical background and I am currently doing a one year research project on Women's Health and disease called the senior SIS.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Cody.

Corie Rushworth

Yeah. So my name's Corie Rushworth. I'm a postgraduate student here at the University of Liverpool. I'm currently undertaking A1 year Mres at the Liverpool Women's Hospital where I'm doing this the same condition as Chloe as well which is Denon miosis. So I'm doing the lab based research projects surrounding that.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Great. Thank you. So, Leslie, can you talk us with Helen about the project?

Dr. Lesley Iwanejko

Hi, Tandy. Yes. So as part of this project, we wanted to understand how. Well, students student experience in India and especially at Garden City University, but also their approach to learning and teaching curriculum design, student support, all the things that we take for granted here at Liverpool. We wanted to try and understand what the similarities and the differences are. And as part of that, we ask. The Helen and the the two students we recruited, the two students, if they would go to spend a week at Garden City University and come back and report on their experiences and what they found interesting and different to life as a student and an academic here at Liverpool.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Great. Thank you, Helen.

Prof. Helen Wallace

Yeah. So I think it was really important from my point of view for the students to experience this and for us to get the the students perspective on what it could potentially be like for them to. To to commit to doing a placement at Garden City University. I I think it was also quite important for me to experience first hand what the learning environment is like over there and obviously the the differences between the two universities. So yeah, so we were there for quite a short. Amount of time. So we did pack a lot into the five days we were there when. Yeah. And so we we spent some time at the university and we were we were really looked after and treated like royalty. So we were. We had an itinerary and we were were were given a tour of the

university. We were giving giving insights into the the Masters course that that the staff run there and we were able to ask them questions so we could compare it with our own masters and and then we were also introduced to. Different biotech companies that the university have links with, which was really interesting. So it gave us some insight into the potential. Employability opportunities that could be there for our students. So that was obviously really, really useful.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Thank you. And So what did you hope to achieve or learn during your visit to JSU?

Corie Rushworth

So I'll take this one. As Leslie and Helen briefly touched on, we were hoping to go over and see if it would be like a viable thing for a student from the University of Liverpool to go over to India for study. I mean, I know that a broad study to everyone sounds like a glamorous idea, but it's very sensible thing to do to go and map these things out before you go and do it. So I was going in the role of a student to see if it's something that a student would enjoy to do, see if it's got suitable facilities for a student to be involved in it and. Whether it just be a valuable experience for a student. And it it was really good. And also at the same time there was opportunities for things like knowledge exchange. We went over to a hospital out there. I had. I do I forget the name, I apologise. But they were also doing research on Women's Health similarly to me. So that was a really unique opportunity we got to share our research with them and they. Spoke a little bit about theirs with us. So overall really positive experience and gave me some really good insight into how postgraduate study works over there in India.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Thank you, Corey. And what what was your highlight or key learning point during your visit?

Chloe Grierson

I think that the highlight of the whole trip was seeing that the students have the potential to have these internships and collaborations with industries such as like the sparse hospitals with their private hospitals over there. They also have policemen and internships with Merck, some paid. As well. So Mark is a leading global science and technology company with three main sectors

including healthcare, life science and technology. And even like making and producing new lab equipment. And it's the world like oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company, so. For a student to go and have an internship that could potentially lead to a full time job, is is a big deal and obviously the exposure as well of having that being in that role as an employee and not as a students as well. I think some of the students have actually been employed by them and yet. They they expose them to all different types of areas of science, which is really good. The they also have like so much potential for research in all these hospitals with visited a hospital that is was newly open. So it's only been open for two weeks and we've gone and visited.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Amazing.

Chloe Grierson

It must have felt like it was. An inspection ball. We were just visiting and we were so impressed by it. Again, like Cory said, we went to a public hospital which actually did have Women's Health research taking place in there. And it was, it was quite impressive, wasn't it? The stuff that they were doing was really impressive. They add so many fertility clinics for assigned students to go and have clinical exposure in scientific exposure, and yet they had other partnerships with the pastors, and there were so many. There were so many to even remember the one that stood out out the most was the internship with me because students were getting employed. With that industry and it is a big deal to be having an internship with them.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

That sounds very aspirational. And yeah, that close link with it. So that sounds. Amazing. What's an opportunity to go into a two week a week hospital so then just taking that thread a bit more. So can you talk about any differences or similarities that you've observed between the UK and India in terms of the learning, teaching or in other ways so?

Prof. Helen Wallace

One of the things that struck me in terms of the curriculum and how. They developed their masters course in India, was how they actually involve the biotech company. These. So we had we had a meeting with the staff involved in the course and discussed various aspects of it and what one of the things they told us was that the biotech companies are actually involved in

developing the learning outcomes and the curriculum. So they're instrumental. Deciding the content basically of the masters, so that also includes them being present at the exam boards as well. So they've got quite an in-depth involvement. You know in all aspects of the course or that's how it appeared. Anyway, which I was quite surprised about, cause that's different to how we obviously run things here. The other thing that struck me as well was So what? What was important to me was thinking about the student support because obviously we'll be sending our students over there and we wanted to make sure that if you know, if this is developed that our students are going to be. Happy and in a safe environment and you know, we wanted to be a. Care of. How much they would need to adapt while they were there, and because it is as we I think Corey and Chloe would both agree with me, it was very, very different to to the university here, which we could maybe talk a little bit more about in the in the next questions. So that was something that that we all asked. And to the students last as well. And one thing that struck me was they do approach student support. Differently to we do in the UK and I think part of that is is a cultural difference, but they tend to involve their families and parents in the in the support of the students. Whereas I think in the UK, our students a lot are a lot more independent. So we do not tend to involve. The the families with day-to-day support, so that was quite interesting.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

M.

Prof. Helen Wallace

Yeah, I think I think I'm trying to think of anything else that they said regarding that. I think if if there are any major issues, then the students will maybe take some time out of the of the masters and go home for a while was what we were thinking. So that's something that we need to really make sure that we're. Focused on when our students do actually go out there and making sure that we have that constant communication with them while they're there, I think will be really important.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Mm-hmm. And I guess that might impact when you're thinking of the collaboration for these Indian students coming here. If you don't have that support from the family. How could you replicate that? Or how could you work that to to match what they were getting? Perhaps in in India or or the base that they may be used?

Prof. Helen Wallace

To. Yeah. So yeah. So I guess that's that's also linked to discussions around how long we're actually going to be developing these placements. 4 so perhaps we do them as smaller placements initially is what we're thinking of, just to see how the students do adapt to the to the new environment and and obviously it's a lot easier nowadays with technology, isn't it? Like, you know, FaceTime and and the like, so it it. You know, it is easy for them to keep in touch with with family, but but yeah, from both sides. I think the there are definitely differences between the two that we would need to consider.

Chloe Grierson

I think as well they both. Both universities are very like focused on the students best interests as well, so the best interest for us is to contact the university for support and their best interest is to contact the families and not only that, the both university want both universities want the best learning outcomes for for the students. That's a similarity. I thought that they had is that they want the best lane and possible for these students.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Great. OK. So that that's good conclusion that, but the purpose is the same, but it might look differently in in different situation. So that's the the nice observation. Is there anything that has surprised you during your visit?

Corie Rushworth

I think just going abroad, anywhere there's always some type of culture shock, isn't there. Obviously India is going to be very different from here in the UK. Yeah, but I think one thing which was a good surprise is how focused they were on employability. I mean, here at the University of Liverpool, we we definitely do put folks on that as well. But if you take, for instance, my postgraduate course is emmas full of students from all different types of disciplines, there's intercalating medical students. I think there's about 5 different disciplines you can do a project on the OR if you've got your own you can. You can choose your own Ave to go down, whereas over there everything seems really. Job focus like they had a big stress on physiotherapy over there at Gannon City University and they, like I said, they had partnerships with all different types of institutions to get you towards that goal where you can do internships or placements there. So you can, you know you, you're straight into a job after your university. Finishes. But like, say,

University of Liverpool definitely does that. But I feel like they've got extra stress on employability afterwards, during their curriculum.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Great. Thank you. And and so based on your visit and your your reflections and what ideas have you now got for a joint programme development? Yeah. So I think one of one of the ideas that we have is potentially developing the existing MRES programme that we have and.

Prof. Helen Wallace

Developing an optional module with the opportunity. To to do a placement as part of that module, and so you know really flexible really. So it's optional. So the students can choose to do it if they wish. And obviously it would work both ways. So we would welcome Indian students onto the course as well. And obviously our our students. Going over to uh to India and the two things that that struck me as opportunities for our students would be obviously spending time with a particular biotech company. And so we were, as as Chloe mentioned, we were exposed to Merck. UM, but there there were several other companies that they were they had quite strong links with. So there were fertility clinics, for example, AstraZeneca was another one. So I think. Have it our students experiencing placements there would obviously be really invaluable for their developing their employability. And and I think also importantly what Corey touched on was that they also do have links with local hospitals. And it was interesting for us because we saw two sorts of different sides. We saw a a brand new lush private hospital which was which was really interesting. And then we also saw quite an established. Public hospital. It was predominantly public. I think there was a private part to it as well, but I think that would be really, really interesting for our intercalating students to be able to experience having a having a placement sort of within that environment. And particularly the the public one, where there is actually research going on. So from those two aspects, I think it would be really, really beneficial for for our students. And I think I think it it would be a really good idea to start. Small scale now I've. I've been over there and I've sort of experienced the the the differences in the culture in the way you know the the learning and teaching is approached. I think it would be really nice to sort of develop it slowly. So we develop something that is beneficial to both the Indian students and the UK. Students. So I think it does need some some careful planning and and and consideration. But I think it it it's going to be a fantastic opportunity for for for both Indian and UK students going forward.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Sounds like a very exciting collaboration and very fruitful visit. So talking about your visit and is there anything that you would do as a consequence that you thought about?

Chloe Grierson

So we were basically because we're being exposed to mayor and they were talking about this five week programme. Alarm bells ringing. A man in Corey's head. You were. Or we could we do this, you know? Is this an opportunity? Was so when we came back, we were on Helen and Leslie and Anne's back like.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

I think they are more. Jingle bells that are on bells, no.

Chloe Grierson

I think we got some alarm bells to say quick. Let's jump to this. So if they they have an opportunity not even just for the Garden City University student, it's basically for any student. To go and do this five week programme with them, and sometimes it is paid so you actually get a wage for doing this for free programme and sometimes it'll just be, you know, the the exposure to it or like a placement unpaid. But either way, that's still a very good opportunity and it'll be 5 weeks. Which is a a longer time than the week that we've gone for, so we'd probably from that understand how to adapt a bit better in the long term and to see if it is possible for a student to. Just jump straight into it without giving it really much thought because I feel like as you said before, international students think I'm going abroad to to study and they don't really give it much thought. But because of the difference, the cultural differences, it does need to have careful consideration. Like Helen said, what I think definitely. It's it's a possibility the the possibility.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah, yeah. Cool.

Corie Rushworth

Yeah. So just to basically touch on the same thing that was Chloe was speaking about, I think we're both really keen to go and do this placement at Merck. So they were doing like a five week programme where within each



week they teach you a different scientific technique which is applicable to research. So both me and Chloe come in from a research background. I feel like it'd be really beneficial for us to go over and and try all those if the University of Liverpool wants to send us, but yeah, they were talking about how they do. I think the first week was like a Multiplex site. Matter, which I've never done before, but obviously is something that's widely used throughout research. But yeah, five week programme each week they teach you a different technique, which is really applicable to research and and anyone with a research focused career is going to benefit from that. So if the opportunity ever did come up. I think me and Chloe were were ready to jump up, so yeah.

Chloe Grierson

Yeah. They also had like they were showing us some of the facility. These that they're being created and some like ideas about like biotechnology and we were just like. Why don't we have these facilities? They're like because we, they're ours. We don't share these facilities with people, but some, some of the equipment that they had was like showered vans that we just couldn't believe it because some of the technology that they're using. Like for example PCR tests can take like 2 hours sometimes here over there they can do that in 5 minutes and I was like why don't we why don't we have this like machine everywhere? And obviously it's expensive and things. So it's it's company secrets as well. So they have all these like. These amazing like industry, biotechnology, chemical production, they have so many different areas and it's not not just the. The learning about it as well, it's the actual terminal.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

I think that's the value of collaboration and sharing facilities and sharing techniques because both. Both sides will have a lot, lots of different things that you can try so that that's brilliant. Thank you so much. Is there any final words that Leslie or Helen you wanted to say?

Prof. Helen Wallace

Just regarding our our overall experience there, as I said at the at the very start we were, we were treated like royalty and we really were. Every day we were at the university they they cooked traditional Indian food for us and and there were I think there were four or five courses each day. And I mean that. The full cultural immersion? Yeah, exactly. And as a lover of Indian food, I I really enjoyed that, that that side of it. And and we were also taken on a tour

of Bengaluru as well. We visited the palace, we saw the government buildings. We even went on a tuk tuk which was. An amazing experience, so it wasn't. Obviously it wasn't just the university we we really did get a an amazing insight into Indian life. And I think that was that experience for the students was. Was really invaluable so I'm. I'm just so pleased that we we were given that opportunity to take them. I think it was just as I say, you know, really, really important and valuable for both of them.

Chloe Grierson

Yeah, but we were quite worried that, like, no one has understands us or no one is speak English, but the majority of people spoke English and we're able to guide those directors have a conversation, but that that really took me by surprise because I didn't expect. That yeah, it was like everywhere was really accessible. The only thing that was a little bit different was the traffic.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

It's.

Prof. Helen Wallace

Yeah.

Chloe Grierson

A 10 minute journey. Here would take an hour there, so your time management over there has to be spot on, otherwise later we have there the two things that really took me by surprise and obviously there's a lot to do there. We couldn't get everything done in the time that we was there, but definitely again in the city centre there. There was so much to do. And you wouldn't get bored because there's so much to see.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

That was like, you know, yeah, really, really good experience. So thank you so much.

Dr. Lesley Iwanejko

Yeah, yeah. I just want to say thank you to Helen Corrie and Chloe for going you can be very biased if you're leading a project, you set a project up, you can just charge down it and not really. Think too much about some of the aspects of it, and I'm just so happy that Corrie, Chloe and Helen took time out

of their really, really busy schedule. To go and and come back and you know, to share their experience with us because it's really it's been invaluable and and thank you so much, because Corrie and Chloe are in the middle of their assessments as well. And I know Helen was busy delivering the programme, so thank you very much for that. It was really. Really grateful to you all for going. Obviously we couldn't have done any of it without obviously Garden City and the University of Liverpool, but especially the the funders, the British Council. So they've, they've supported this, we applied about it probably just over a year ago, I think and there were a lot of applicants, we were one of about four that were successful and they've covered the costs of these exchange visits which. We've we've met online regularly, but these have just been so invaluable to the the progress and success at this project. So thank you. Then.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

OK. And thank you. Thank you everyone for for the podcast and wishing you a best. Yeah. Finishing your studies, Corey and Chloe, especially and sounds like this is to be continued story. So thank you very. Much.

Chloe Grierson

Thank you. Thank you.