



THE OBSERVATORY
on Borderless Higher Education



INTERNATIONAL BRANCH CAMPUSES

Trends and Developments, 2016

The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, in conjunction with the Cross-Border Education Research Team (C-BERT) at the State University of New York at Albany and Pennsylvania State University, has finalized its report, *International Branch Campuses: Trends and Developments, 2016*. This unique report is the definitive resource on IBCs from the world's two leading authorities on the subject.

The report delivers the most comprehensive analysis to date on one of the most topical developments in international higher education, providing a full list of known IBCs in operation along with data on location, year established, degrees and programs offered, and student numbers. The report also lists IBCs under development, those recently closed, and distribution by home and host country. Drawing on extensive research, the report explores the motivations for opening, the ownership models in place, and the complexities of quality assurance across borders. IBCs are discussed within a broader framework of cross-border higher education activity.

The report is free for OBHE members and available for purchase for non-members. Access current report here:
www.obhe.org

Selected findings

- **Net IBCs.** At the end of 2015, the number of international branch campuses worldwide hit 249, up 26% since the end of 2010 when taking into account IBCs that closed or changed status in that time.
- **Steady Growth.** In absolute terms, growth is steady: from 2011-2015, 66 IBCs were founded, compared to 67 from 2006-2010.
- **Students.** At the end of 2015, an estimated 180,000 students worldwide were enrolled in IBCs as defined in this report.
- **Top Home Countries.** IBCs come from 33 different home countries. In terms of number of IBCs, the top five home countries are the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France, and Australia.
- **Top Host Countries.** Seventy-six countries host IBCs, with the largest concentrations in China (32), the United Arab Emirates (31), Singapore (12), Malaysia (12), and Qatar (11). China has overtaken UAE as the top host country.
- **New Countries.** Six new home countries, nine new host countries, and six countries newly engaged as both host and home appeared from 2011-2015.
- **Developing Countries.** Developing countries continue to become both home and host of IBCs, though there remains little activity in Africa and South America: from 2011-2015, only four new IBCs were developed in Africa outside of the MENA region and just one in South America.
- **Trends.** The number of IBCs continues to increase, with concentrated growth in China, Malaysia, Mauritius and South Korea from 2011-2015 and slowed growth in UAE.
- **Future.** Growth continues to be largely driven by providers based in the United States and Europe. Of the IBCs currently under development worldwide, around half are planned by institutions based in the US and UK.

Part 2 of the IBC report, to be published in 2017, will be based on interviews with institutional leaders at a sample of IBCs in operation for at least a decade. It will investigate motivations and operations of mature IBCs and explore the question of how to judge success from different perspectives and what combination of conditions breeds success.