



The **OBSERVATORY**  
on borderless higher education

# Internationalisation in Higher Education

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# Today's Presentation:

- The OBHE
  - Differing Rationales for Internationalisation
  - Strategic Approaches
  - International Perspectives
    - Benefits
    - Risks
  - Issues to Consider
- 

***The Business of  
Borderless  
Education:  
UK Perspectives  
2000***



# The Observatory on Borderless HE: Information, Strategy, Reflection

- **Descriptive Information** - news on the latest developments
- **Strategic Information** - an attempt to explore rationales, decision-making processes and organisational change
- **Reflection** - standing back from events to consider implications of trends and developments

# Internationalisation:

“ . . . is the process of integrating an international, inter-cultural and/or global dimension in the goals, functions (teaching/learning, research, services) and delivery of higher education.”

# Rationales:

- Differing perspectives?
  - Your view
  - Your VC's view
  - Your international Office's view
  - Your student's view
  - Your academic's view
- Does it matter?

# Strategic Approaches:

- One strategy or many?
- How might you characterise the balance of emphasis?
- What are the elements?
- How is it communicated to various stakeholders?

# Developing Strategies:

- **Depth**
  - Core (linked to mission and vision) or peripheral?
  - Whole or part of institution?
- **Breadth/Coverage**
  - Narrow (focused on a particular international activity)
  - Functional (centred mainly around activities)
  - Inclusive (cultural, cross-cutting, holistic)
- **Rationale/Drivers**
  - Financial, Academic, Developmental, Competitive, Collaborative
  - Proactive or Reactive?



# Institutional Strategies:

- **Outward dimension:**
  - Targeted – particular countries, institutions, regions
  - Scattergun/opportunistic – wide range of countries, sharing risk
  - Niche – focus on a particular market(s)
  - Mutual benefit – co-operation and collaboration
- **Within institutions:**
  - Separated – limited integration between international activities
  - Cultural – internationalising the campus
  - Holistic – integration into all aspects of an institution's activities
  - Building specialist knowledge at different levels

# Reasons for Internationalisation:

- Increase student and faculty international knowledge capacity and production (22%)
- Strengthen research and knowledge capacity and production (21%)
- Create international profile and reputation (18%)
- Contribute to academic quality (14%)
- Broaden and diversify source of faculty and students (13%)
- Promote curriculum development and innovation (8%)

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'Internationalization of HE: New Directions New Challenges' (IAU 2006)

# Benefits of Internationalisation:

- More internationally oriented students and staff
- Improved academic quality
- Increased revenue generation
- Opportunities for brain gain
- Greater international understanding and solidarity
- Innovations in curriculum, teaching and research
- Foster 'national and international' citizenship

# Risks of Internationalisation:

- Homogenisation of curriculum
- Loss of cultural or national identity
- Jeopardize quality of education
- Growing elitism in access to international education opportunities
- Overuse of English as a medium of instruction
- Commodification and commercialisation of education programmes

# Issues to Consider:

- What trends have you observed as you reflect on your university's international experience over the past several years?
- What are the main obstacles to increasing internationalisation at your institution (e.g. lack of support from senior management, lack of funding, lack of interest/time, lack of recognition for international activity etc)?
- What impact, if any, do you think the RAE and other government initiatives have had, or will have, on the internationalisation strategies at your institution?

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