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

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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

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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.”

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Source - Knight 2004
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

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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

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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

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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?