



Internationalisation: Myths, Realities, Challenges & Opportunities

Call for Papers

Dublin Institute of Technology, 29th September 2014

‘Internationalisation’ has become a ubiquitous term across the higher education sector in recent decades. But as an educational goal, it remains a somewhat elusive concept. Recent research has demonstrated that whilst conceptual ideals of internationalisation have made their way into the strategies of most European higher-education institutions, they often remain on the pages of strategy documents. This conference seeks to assess the extent to which the higher-education system has succeeded in implementing the ideals of internationalisation. The following questions in particular are of interest: Are these ideals translatable in practice? What kind of learning outcomes help us measure students’ intercultural competence? To what extent are practitioners themselves interculturally competent? Is the ideal of ‘internationalisation at home’ still a “brilliant idea awaiting implementation” (Joseph Mestenhauser)? Is the dominance of English as the medium of instruction exerting a homogenising effect? Is the “brain drain” risk real? Are research funding mechanisms conducive to internationalising research and to researching internationalisation? Are we moving from the traditional concept of “cooperative internationalisation” towards “commercial internationalisation” as research now suggests? How can we move internationalisation out of international offices and engrain it in curriculum development and quality assurance processes? Contributions are welcome on the micro and macro levels. In addition to the above questions, areas for consideration are not limited to but might include:

Teaching and Learning

- Internationalising the curriculum: the ‘whys’ and ‘hows’
- Incentivising and involving academic staff
- Creative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment in the culturally-diverse classroom
- The practicalities and potential of physical and virtual student mobility and distance education
- Integrating domestic and international students in the multicultural classroom

Research

- Enhancing research through internationalisation: paradigms and epistemologies
- The role of internationalisation in enhancing academic excellence
- Creating sustainable partnerships: lessons learned

Commercialisation

- The 'business' of international student recruitment
- Franchising degree provision: benefits, risks and challenges

The Environment

- Opportunities created by EU Framework funding and other funding mechanisms:
- Innovative theoretical frameworks that can assist our understanding of internationalisation
- Internationalisation as a "homeless discipline"

Future directions and opportunities

Abstracts of no more than 300 words are invited for thirty-minute papers. Please send proposals to Elaine.Martin@dit.ie. It is intended that the conference proceedings will be published. Deadline for submission of abstracts: **10 August 2014**