



International Week at FUB

Wrap-up

June 22th, 2012

Session A: strategic approach:

FUB

Needs for successful internationalization process:

- Clear lines of communication within the university
- Find ways to motivate overworked researchers to get engaged
- Focus on selected partnerships (competition: primary partnerships)
- Transfer selected individual contacts into structured international research cooperation (role of administration: inform!)

Goal of FUB: most innovative German university in internationalization by 2020

Session A: strategic approach on students exchange: University of Limerick

- 12 BA-Degrees with mandatory semester abroad
- Interpreting exchange (students and staff) as a first step towards partnership in research and scientific cooperation
- Allow students and alumni to initiate a new partnership via exchange program
- need to offer funding in order to motivate students to Asia or Africa, European programs are more attractive
- "Teaching in a multicultural classroom"

Session A: strategic approach

University of Paris Diderot

- high number of joint and double degrees to intensify exchange of students and enhance research in the same time
- Teachers & researchers exchanges to Latina America/Creation of chair in Buenos Aires/Developing to strategic area Brazil/Perou
- Other partnerships with selected partners Illinois/ Wuhan/ Korea universities
- Creation of the foundation Paris Diderot > allocation of funding for selected internationalization projects

Session A: strategic approach University of Bergen

- point of view from the faculty level
- difficult to define strategic choice of professors: often rather look for complementarity rather than for same strengths in research
- Focus on teaching and staff mobility as a means to make internationalization more attractive
- biggest challenge: staff does not encourage students to go on exchange

Session B: Presentation of Double Degrees

Which special services to incoming students?

> tailor-made within every program, very decentralized

How to guarantee quick integration?

> different degrees according to model of implementation

How does double degree cooperation contribute to

Developing joint research projects, Alumni work?

> Joint PhDs - with all the effort necessary

International Staff Training Week

Wednesday: Online and Offline Services for Incoming Students

Strategies for Making the Stay of the Incomings at the Host Institution as Pleasant as Possible

Beginning of stay:

- Pick-up service from the airports
- Police/Citizen Center registration day: ensuring that students do not have to stand in long lines for their registration
- Bank account day: ensuring that students can open a bank account quickly by having a bank offer their services during orientation week(s)
- Campus/ City tours: students learn how to find their way around
- Orientation days: Information on enrollment process, language courses, organisation of studies and computer usage; presentation of International Club and Student Union etc.
- Some universities help the incomings to book courses – frequent problem: students can book only courses in the field of study they are enrolled in
- Some universities automatically reserve accommodations for students who need a visa because they need a proof of residence for the visa application (e.g. Czech Republic)

End of Stay:

- Organisation of separate exams for incomings -> problem: different semester terms – incomings sometimes need an earlier examination date because they need to go back home before the end of the semester/term

Challenge:

Keeping students up to date with tasks

Strategies for Communicating as Much Information as Possible to Students Ahead of Their Arrival

- Traditional channels: email, paper info-packages, websites
- Some universities use blogs, apps, podcast, chat to inform incomings
- Some universities use social media like facebook or twitter (controversial: institutionally supervised? Censorship of certain comments?)
- Some universities use online information portals (example: FUB Distributed Campus) to inform their students about tasks and to connect incomings with outgoings (interaction among students: e.g. apartment swapping)
- Building Up/ Coaching of Advisory Student Teams: great help and support for International Offices

Challenge:

Housing: Guaranteed university accommodation is a precious good which only few universities can offer. For most institutions, guaranteeing it means limiting the number of exchange places dramatically or cancelling bilateral agreements.

Strategies for Solving the Housing Problem

- Universities seek to find more funds for more student houses
- International Offices look for and then refer students to private housing
- Online platforms/portals (e.g. FU Distributed Campus), which are institutionally supervised, are used for apartment swops between incomings and outgoing
- Universities suggest other apartment swop sites (controversial – scams!)

Challenge:

Incoming exchange students have trouble getting in contact with local students

Strategies for Mixing Incomings and Local Students

- Buddy Programmes with locals as buddies (Buddy Programmes either organized by International Office or Departments/Faculties)
- Various social programmes during the term offered by the host institution, the local students' union or the International Club, i.e. campus tour, parties, discussion groups on cultural differences, excursions / weekend trips, dinners, football match, planting tree event, folk dancing event
- Connecting incomings and locals with each other as tandem partners
- Connecting incomings and (former or future) outgoings: Exchange of experiences, information about host/home universities

Session E: Presentation of **International Short Term Programs**

Questions:

How does your institution define short term programs?

Are short term offers academically recognized by the home institution?

Do short term programs offer added value to an intercultural perspective?

Definition

International Summer Schools and Short Courses, usually 1-4 weeks

Intensive academic program and language courses, combining “class room” learning with field trips, including cultural and social programs (“learn, travel, have fun”)

Students can choose courses/modules

Addressing International students

(Programs have to meet the needs of those “markets”, e.g. the U.S.-American)

Different approaches:

University wide “centrally” organized Summer Schools which are rather interdisciplinary

Summer Schools on specific fields of study/research subjects, organized by faculties

The latter should be coordinated also centrally

International Summer Schools and Short Courses are usually not part of general exchange programs

Teaching is often done by regular Professors who are not extra paid

Participants have to pay fees

Recognition

ECTS credits

Transcript of Records and Certificates of Attendance

Quality assurance measures (course reviews, student evaluations, transparent regulations, Quality Improvement Program (QUIP) of the Forum on Education Abroad)

Added Value

Internationalisation at home:

Lots of international participants

(e.g. FUBiS 2011: 630 students from 60 nationalities,

Ljubljana: 450 participants from 41 countries, additionally 45 international teachers)

International and intercultural experience

Different nationalities = different views

Marketing:

Promotion for the country/the city/the University and its profile

Attracting international students for further study programs

Strengthening international cooperation

Thank you very much!

