Ensuring quality overseas delivery and education partnerships

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QAA

Quality assurance of international activities

- ‘Interest intensifies in UK degrees delivered overseas’ (THE 23 April 2009):
- 200,000 + ‘offshore students’
  - 100,000 distance learning
  - 89,000 collaborative partnerships
  - 7,000 UK campus students
- China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore: 37% of students
- European Union: 25%
- 342,790 international students in the UK

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Definition of collaborative partnerships

- Types of partnership arrangement
  - Joint programmes
  - Franchised programmes
  - Validated provision
  - Recognition agreements
  - Distance learning
- Management of risk

Overseas Audit 2006-08

- China
  - Scale of activity
  - Developing market
- Russia
  - Limited range of partner links
  - Role of agents
- Hong Kong
  - Competitive HE market
  - Range of provision
- Greece and Cyprus
  - Recognition of UK awards
  - Status of private colleges

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India Audit 2009

- Revised approach – audit plus
- Background research
- Working with British Council
- Case studies
- Overview report
- Preliminary visit – November 2008
  - Ministry of Human Resource Development
  - AICTE
  - NAAC
- Issues in India

Good practice identified in reports

- Generally well managed partnerships
- Appropriate systems and procedures
- Effective communication and use of resources
- Support for partner organisations
- Staffing arrangements
- Assessment practice and role of external examiners

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Points for consideration

- Legal and regulatory frameworks
- Agreements
- Locus of responsibility within HEIs – central oversight
- Over dependence on key individuals
- Delegation of responsibility to partners
- Assessment arrangements
- Transfer of students to UK
- Publicity materials

Messages from China 2008

- High regard for UK HE
- Concern about the student learning experience
- Employment opportunities for graduates from UK programmes
- Quality assurance of distance learning programmes
- Recognition and articulation arrangements
- Status of UK institutions
- Status of partner organisations
- Preference for joint programmes (BUPT)

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Plans for the future

- Forward programme for overseas audit
- Revisions to audit method after 2011
- QAA's strategy for the quality assurance of Trans-national higher education

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