



The University of  
**Nottingham**

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# World rankings of Universities and collaborative teaching provision

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# Opening remarks

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- Rankings as an alpha-male phenomenon
- 'Info-vore' culture expects data
- Being 300<sup>th</sup> – how bad *is* that?

# International rankings and collaborative behaviour

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## *Positive:*

Internationally agreed benchmarking enables institutions to 'look up' the status of a potential partner

Openly available and clearly defined criteria can provide information about potential synergies between collaborators

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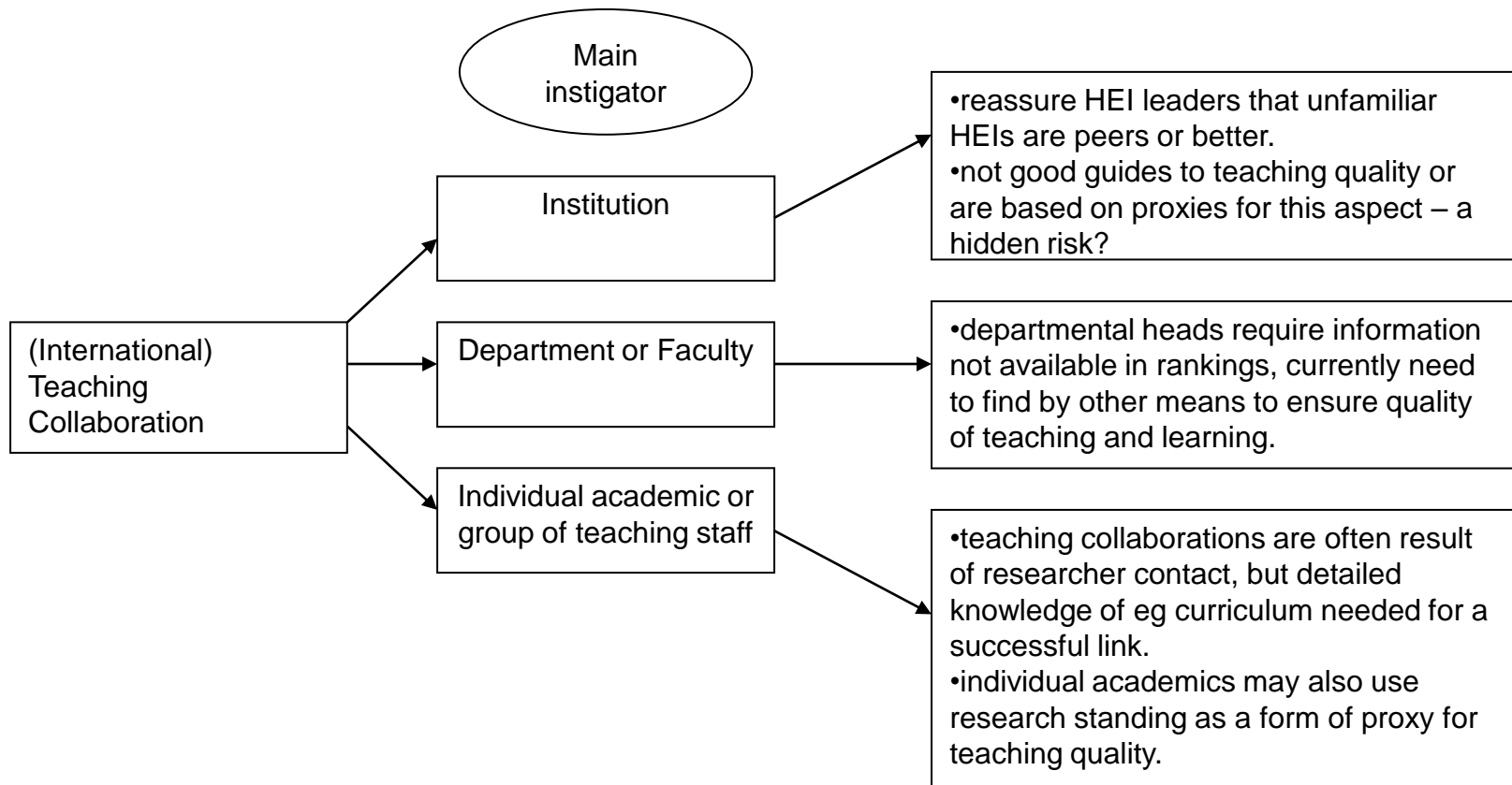
*Negative:*

An overall institutional ranking may mask individual discipline strengths (particularly in the Arts and Humanities)

'Halo' effects may encourage collaborations that cluster in a group of similarly ranked institutions; may put brake on cross-border capacity building in risk-averse higher ranked institutions

# Current international rankings a help or hindrance?

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# Criteria to promote teaching collaborations

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- Institutional self-evaluation – who do they aim to teach, and why?
- Capture indicative data around teaching and learning, for instance:
  - Staff student ratios, infrastructure for teaching, number and nature of existing collaborations, profile of teaching staff, graduate employment statistics, evidence of professional development of teaching, student feedback on teaching
- Notion of 'best for...' rather than 'best'

# Caveats re intercultural issues

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- How feasible are culturally neutral definitions of teaching quality?
  - My autonomy is your abdication of teaching responsibilities
  - Your powerful memorisation skills are my mere regurgitation of facts
- Possible to work out a core of values?

# And finally, a balance is required between

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- Desire for an authoritative statement of universally agreed values and ...
- *Had her Winter '10 for MH 11. REAAAALY easy. Three tests, all multiple choice/true and false, with EXCELLENT reviews before tests. Make sure you know everything on the 3-4 handouts she gives and you will do well. Very easy on lateness, attendance mandatory but accepts good excuses (i.e. sick child at home)*  
(from: ratemyprofessors.com)





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