

Student Mobility and Employability

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International Context



- Globalisation, we live in a increasingly integrated world economy
- Approx. 150.6m students globally, a 53% increase since 2000
- Momentous political changes internationally
- Huge expansion overseas students
 - 240,000→3.4 Million - 1960's - present
 - 85% increase - 2000-2007
- Further doubling predicted - predominantly in the Far East
- Chinese Government sets 40% HE participation target
- Over 50% of Chinese students expect to be taught in English
- Greater competition - other universities, other nations

Internationalisation – Further Growth? ✓



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Reasons for optimism about growth in international student mobility:

- Concentration of world population in developing countries with rising birth-rates, an increasing demand for education in these countries, and limited domestic capacity to provide education
- Development of the global economy and associated emergence of China, India and other Asian countries as major economic powers
- Untapped growth potential of mobility below tertiary level

Reasons for caution about growth in international student mobility:

- Concerns over “brain drain” have driven sending countries to build up their own tertiary systems
- Rapid growth in transnational education means students can get at least some international education benefits without leaving home
- Early signs from a few key countries (the US, Australia) that the bumper years of mobility growth ended in 2009/10

Source: “Who Goes Where and Why?” Macready /Tucker

Student Mobility

To meet the ever growing and changing demand of the global economy we need to develop students who can thrive in a globalised world. Student Mobility provides:

- A valuable experience of an international education
- Encourages students to mature
- Increases confidence
- Develops communication skills
- Develops students skills for life
- Provides a opportunity to move, to learn and to have different personal, social experiences
- Improves academic performance
- Increases graduation rates
- Increase the students competitiveness on the global graduate labour market

Personal Testimonial

'I was pushed to the limits both professionally and personally, but learnt a huge amount along the way. I organised a conference in Nice, France. I was responsible for the budget of \$50,000, the promotion of the event and the logistics leading up to, and on the day. As part of my role, I donated in the region of \$750,000 - \$1m worth of technology to universities across EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa).

One of the most valuable lessons that I learnt was the appreciation of cultural differences. Every day I would go to lunch with people from Germany, France, Spain, Iran, Australia, Russia, Belorussia (the list goes on...). This really helped to develop my people skills and the way that I interact and adapt to every situation - something that is proving very valuable for my current job search.

Another bonus that came from my time abroad is that ability to adapt and live in a totally new environment also helps when looking for a job. I would have no problems with moving abroad again. The placement abroad also helps to develop your future career prospects, and has acted as a real talking point in my other interviews with Rolls Royce and Lidl'

Shanghai Maritime Summer School



- Creating strategic partnerships at all levels
- Multiple levels of internationalisation
- Benefits for all Plymouth University students
- The Summer School in Shanghai was 3x oversubscribed

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Personal Testimonial

'My role as a Student Ambassador was to live in halls with the students, offering them advice and guidance where necessary, taking them on day trips, making sure that they understood their timetables of lessons and lectures and sorting out any problems that they may have (which was a huge range from lost cameras to credit cards to arranging weekend trips to Edinburgh).

During the month I worked with five other Ambassadors and we quickly became a very close team, it was a real bonding experience to be responsible for our foreign guests and we really wanted to make sure that they got the most out of their trip here. Along with all of the practical skills that I gained whilst working on the Summer School (which looked great on my CV) I cannot stress how much I learnt about Chinese culture, cooking, games and language.

I would say that we learnt as much from the trip as they did!

The most important thing I gained from the trip is friendship, spending a whole month with a group of happy, friendly, polite and courteous guests made my job a pleasure but more than that I became close friends with several members of the group who I am now in regular contact with and hope to see again very soon. Without a doubt I would recommend this experience to anyone. It was a month of laughter, happiness, friendship and adventure... one that I'll never forget.'

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Louise Kent, Plymouth University
Student Ambassador for Summer School in Plymouth

Internationalisation – A Broad Prospective

- Curriculum
- Research Partnerships
- Exchanges
- Summer schools
- Business Partnerships
- Overseas Campuses

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Transnational Education

- Benefits for host country – International development
- Broadens academic experience – reach of UK academy
- Creates a additional funding stream
- Provides exchange opportunities for UK students and academics

Transnational Education with Plymouth University

- Sri Lanka
- Hong Kong University
- Singapore
- China Agriculture University

Student Mobility Promotes Employability

Student mobility has been shown to contribute to a students employability:

- Students are more likely to be employed six months after graduating and to have higher salaries than the average.
- Students are more likely to employed abroad.
- 2 out of 3 students believe their Erasmus experience played a significant factor in them gaining their first and subsequent jobs

Student mobility, their experience and all the skills they gain, endows graduates with a portfolio which enhances their value to employers.

Thank you

Questions and Discussion

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