Northumbria Research Link

3Rivers Consortium Conference 2011

How international are we?
A study of the barriers to internationalisation of UK Higher Education

- Current Doctorate study
- Primary research in 3 phases
  - Content analysis of internationalisation strategies
  - Questionnaire via Surveymonkey of staff involved with internationalisation
  - Interviews with identified staff
- Mixed methods – common approach adopted by other significant research in this area (Elkin, Devjee & Farnsworth, 2005; Middlehurst & Woodfield, 2007; Elkin, Farnsworth & Templer, 2008; Fielden, 2008)
- Pragmatist philosophy

northumbria
U N I V E R S I T Y

Internationalisation – a definition

"*internationalization at the national, sector and institutional levels is defined as the process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of postsecondary education* (Knight, 2003)

It has though been extended by the addition of a further statement

"*it should aim to create values, beliefs and intellectual insight in which both domestic and international students and staff participate and benefit equally. It should develop global perspectives, international and cultural and ethical sensitivity and useful knowledge, skills and attitudes for the globalised market place*" (Elkin, Devjee & Farnsworth, 2005).

northumbria
UNIVERSITY

Content Analysis of Internationalisation Strategies

- Four strategies analysed – selected as cross section of type (pre/post 1992), location and varying levels of engagement with internationalisation
- QSR Nvivo used for analysis
- identify themes that are stated within the strategies - important to internationalisation process
- comparison with themes identified in earlier studies – Aigner, Nelson & Stimpfl, 1992; Scott, 1992; Warner, 1992; de Wit, 1995; Knight, 1997; Knight, 2003; Elkin, Devjee & Farnswoth, 2005; Middlehurst & Woodfield, 2007; Elkin, Farnsworth & Templer, 2008
- Themes grouped under rationales - academic, competitive, developmental, economic, political, social and cultural plus operational

northumbria
UNIVERSITY

Content Analysis cont

Coding Rationale	A	B	C	D	Totals
Academic	56 (29)	48 (23)	40 (53)	47 (34)	191 (31)
Competitive	39 (20)	26 (12)	14 (19)	25 (18)	104 (17)
Developmental	22 (11)	35 (16)	4 (5)	14 (10)	75 (12)
Economic	11 (5)	15 (7)	2 (3)	11 (8)	39 (6)
Operational	48 (24)	46 (22)	8 (11)	15 (11)	117 (19)
Political	5 (3)	0	1 (1)	0	6 (1)
Social & cultural	15 (8)	43 (20)	6 (8)	26 (19)	90 (14)
Totals	196	213	75	138	622

Coding of internationalisation strategies – number and % of codes per rationale per institution

Content Analysis cont

•Although not being the driver for the strategy analysis, the focus of each strategy could also be identified from the table above.

•B and D have a greater emphasis on social and cultural aspects and reflects the very wide ranging and institution-wide strategy of B

•There were significant correlations between previous research including;

     institutional links

     research collaborations

     internationally focused curriculum

     staff interaction internationally

     student recruitment

Questionnaire

- Prepared using surveymonkey software and was emailed out via two separate internationalisation interest groups
- BUILA, the British Universities International Liaison Association which has around 400 members across 125 HEI's
- Internationalisation Special Interest Group (SIG) within the Business, Management, Accountancy and Finance (BMAF) network of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) with over 1230 members across 135 HEI's.
- The majority of the questions were based on the Likert Scale
- Grouped into 6 main areas – staff, student, curriculum, collaborative, administration and operationalising, general

Analysis of questionnaires

- 76 respondents from 55 HEI's, giving an excellent geographical spread and also of "types" of institution
- The provision of qualitative responses provided further detailed data
- Main barriers identified
  - Internationalising the curriculum
  - Support of senior staff
  - Resourcing
  - Support of whole institution staff
  - Mobility
  - Cultural awareness
  - Internationalisation strategy

northumbria
UNIVERSITY

Analysis of questionnaires cont

- Statistically significant difference between pre and post 1992 institutions on
    - REF 2013 and link to internationalisation
    - Mobility of staff
    - Staff international experience and profile
    - Institutional international aim/strategy

- Statistically significant difference between "roles" of respondent on
    - REF 2013 and link to internationalisation
    - Internationalising the curriculum
    - Internationalisation at home

Final Phase Interviews

- Two pre 1992 and two post 1992 institutions
- DVC, Head of International Office, Academic, Administrator
- Very early analysis re-confirms main barriers

    - Internationalising the curriculum – close link to *internationalisation at home* agenda
    - Support of senior staff
    - Resourcing
    - Support of whole institution staff
    - Mobility
    - Cultural awareness

BUT evident difference of barrier emphasis whether pre or post 1992 institution

northumbria
U N I V E R S I T Y

References

Aigner, J. S., Nelson, P. & Stimpfl, J. R. (1992) *Internationalizing the University: making it work. Springfield: CBIS Federal.*

de Wit, H. (1995) *Strategies for Internationalization of Higher Education: a comparative study of Australia, Canada, Europe and the United States of America. Amsterdam: European Association for International Education.*

Elkin, G., Devjee, F. & Farnsworth, J. (2005) 'Visualising the "internationalisation" of universities', *International Journal of Educational Development,* 19 (4), pp. 318-329 [Online]. Available at: www.emeraldinsight.com (Accessed: 5 November 2008).

Elkin, G., Farnsworth, J. & Templer, A. (2008) 'Strategy and the internationalisation of universities', *International Journal of Educational Management,* 22 (3), pp. 239-250 [Online]. *Available at: www.emeraldinsight.com (Accessed: 5 November 2008).*

Fielden, J. (2008) *The Practice of Internationalisation: Managing International Activities in UK Universities. London: The UK HE International Unit [Online]. Available at: http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk (Accessed: 10 June 2008).*

Knight, J. (1997) 'Internationalization of higher education: a conceptual framework', in Knight, J. & deWitt, H. (eds.) *Internationalization of Higher Education in Asia Pacific Countries. Amsterdam: EAIE, pp. 5-19.*

Knight, J. (2003) 'Updating the Definition of Internationalisation', *The Journal of International Higher Education,* 33 (Fall) [Online]. Available at: http://www.bc.edu/bc (Accessed: 10 June 2008).

Middlehurst, R. & Woodfield, S. (2007) *Responding to the internationalisation agenda: implications for institutional strategy.* Higher Education Academy [Online]. Available at: http://www.escalate.ac.uk (Accessed: 10 December 2008).

Scott, R. A. (1992) *Campus Developments in Response to the Challenges of Internationalization: the case of Ramapo College of New Jersey (USA). Springfield: CBIS Federal.*

Warner, G. (1992) 'Internationalization Models and the Role of the University', *International Education Magazine, 1992, p. 21.*

northumbria
UNIVERSITY