

YEBO Final Conference

Internationalization of the PhD: Navigating challenges & opportunities

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Higher Education Landscape



The primary aim of internationalization is to strengthen doctoral education by drawing on the collaborative efforts, knowledge and skills between partnering institutions in different countries.



Great expectations

Establish the importance of

- Capacity building
- Knowledge and skills exchange
- Student expectations
- Obligations and responsibilities



Internationalization is not

- Mobility only
- Tourist conferencing
- Cheap vacation
- Emigration
- One-way traffic
- Academic trafficking



Challenges & Opportunities



- **Legislation**
- Administration & Governance
- Mobility
- Financial issues
- Supervision
- Digitization

- The political climate of the last 5 years
- Host countries-specific requirements may limit or promote mobility
- Revised South African legislation
- Stance of partnering institutions is not always reciprocal in nature



Challenges & Opportunities

- Legislation
- Administration & Governance
- Mobility
- Financial issues
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- Digitization

- Know administrative systems
- Ensure that the student is registered at both institutions
- Perceptions of bureaucracy
- Ethics and project approval
- Establish a feasible co'tutelle with clear responsibilities assigned
- Know the deal breakers
- Force majeure

- Legislation
- Administration & Governance
- **Mobility**
- Financial issues
- Supervision
- Digitization

- Clarify mobility requirements
- The demographic profile of the African PhD student is vastly different
- The culture of Higher education and pursuit of PhD is vastly different
- Revisit the focus on PhD mobility and focus on pipeline development
- Non-return of mobile students
- Mobility at home

- Legislation
- Administration & Governance
- Mobility
- **Financial issues**
- Supervision
- Digitization

- Funding is decreasing
- Exchange rates prejudice North-South mobility
- Subsistence and accommodation are often not covered
- Costly medical aid requirements
- Accompanying dependents must demonstrate financial independence

Challenges & Opportunities

- Legislation
- Administration & Governance
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- **Supervision**
- Digitization

- Supervisory dyads change into supervisory teams (Range: 3-8)
- Supervisory teams must clearly delineate roles and responsibilities
- Project-based teams with existing relationships fare better
- Unidirectional conceptualization of capacity building



Challenges & Opportunities



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- Legislative issues
- Administration & Governance
- Mobility
- Financial issues
- Supervision
- **Digitization**

- Expectation of availability
- ICT vulnerabilities including Unequal access to devices & ICT readiness
- Hiding behind the bandwidth
- Enhanced business continuity
- MOOCS, repositories, Open Source
- Library access





Internationalization
remains a powerful
process that could
leapfrog participation
in HE with the
advances in IT and
technology.

Conclusion



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- Clarify the contextual needs
- Critically appraise where the game changing intervention would take place
- Internationalization has not increased participation in HE
- Modest success in reducing time to degree
- Sustainability of interventions not optimal

