International Partnerships: Joint and Dual Degree Programs, Faculty/Student Exchanges, Joint Research Projects and More

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What are they?

**International partnerships:** agreed upon collaboration between institutions in different countries

- **Academic collaboration - teaching**
  - Study abroad - outbound (Exchange, Faculty-led, Locations or Hubs abroad)
  - Study abroad – inbound (Set program or customized)
  - Dual Degree programs (Main campus and Microcampus)
  - Pathway Programs (2+2, 3+1, 3+2)
  - English Language Training

- **Research collaboration**
  - Research projects
  - Mentoring programs
  - Internships
  - Fieldwork

- **Service or practical experience opportunities**
  - Service learning
  - Internships
Process: International Partnership Lifecycle

- The international partnership lifecycle has three primary phases:
  - Developmental: focuses on conceptualizing and designing opportunities
  - Operational: focuses on negotiating and implementing the initiatives being pursued
  - Assessment: allows for a review of data and program activity and informs both the development and operational phases of development
International Joint and Dual Degree Programs Defined

- **International joint degree programs**: “a degree program that is designed and delivered by two or more partner institutions in different countries issuing a single qualification endorsed by each institution” ACE (2014)

- **International dual degree programs**: “a degree program that is designed and delivered by two or more partner institutions in different countries where a student receives a qualification from each of the partner institutions” ACE (2014)
When did international joint and dual degree programs become active?

- More popular in **Europe** initially – promotion of academic collaboration between institutions in the European Union in the last two decades beginning around the year 2000
- **Asia** – particularly interested in various articulation and pathway program models to expand capacity and increase prestige
- **USA** – reacted to these changes abroad and requests for collaboration – more common at doctoral and master granting institutions beginning around the year 2005

(ACE, 2014)
What are the primary motivations for US institutions pursuing international joint and dual degree programs?

- Recruitment mechanism to attract new international students
- Part of an institutional level strategic plan for internationalization
- Expansion of an existing international partnership – trying new program models with known partners

(LaFleur, 2018)
Challenges

- **Garnering institutional support** across campus and creating an appropriate **infrastructure**
  - leadership, administration, faculty
- **Academic challenges**
  - Language of instruction, cultural differences, course equivalencies, grading/evaluation differences
- **Quality and Accreditation of the partner institutions**
- **Sustainability**
  - Assessment results – data collection
  - Continued commitment to program and investment of resources
  - Leadership changes
  - Communication challenges between partner institutions

(ACE, 2014)
Strategies being used at U.S. public institutions of higher education

- Include internationalization goals in institutional strategic plans
- Garner support of key administrative leaders
- Identify faculty champions
- Develop materials and/or workshops
- Collaborate with college liaisons focused on international efforts
- Hire on-site liaisons to work at locations abroad
- Establish a comprehensive centralized administrative infrastructure

(LaFleur, 2018)
Areas of intersection between HACU goals and internationalization goals

- Mutual goals – provide global experiences to a more diverse body of students
- Create awareness and opportunities to promote global experiences
- Provide access to adequate financial support to support student participation

- To do! Identify the appropriate units and people on campus to work collaboratively on these goals.
Resources for U.S. Institutions

- American Council on Education (ACE)
  - Center for Internationalization in Action, Four Part Article Series on International Partnerships
  - Internationalization Lab
  - Mapping Internationalization assessment (2-year, 4-year, public, private institutions)

- Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)
  - Leadership Academy for Senior International Officers (SIO’s)
  - Workshops and publications

- Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU)
  - Commission on International Initiatives

- Institute for International Education (IIE)
  - Publications on International Partnerships and International Dual Degree Programs
  - International Academic Partnership Programs
  - Gilman Scholarship Program
  - Fulbright Programs

- NAFSA: Association of International Educators
  - International Partnership article series and many more publications
  - Workshops at annual conferences
References
