



**Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
(HACU)  
9th International Conference**

**The Role of Internationalization of Universities  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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# What is the University?

- Inter American University of Puerto Rico enrolls approximately 45,000 students, and 5,700 of them at the graduate level with the remainder in undergraduate programs.
- Students benefit from approximately 90 inter-institutional agreements with universities and organizations of North, Central and South America, Europe and Asia.
- Our University offers 39 distance learning programs and other outreach activities.
- Our faculty also actively engages in research and scholarship.
- Puerto Rico's largest private university.



# Internationalization

- **Process of integrating an international/intercultural dimension into teaching, research and service functions.**
  - **It must include a systematic process to make a higher education responsive to the requirements and challenges related to the globalization of societies, economy and labour markets.**
- **Response of the universities**
  - **The Bologna Declaration**



# How does internationalization affect higher education in 21st Century?

- Higher education institutions have to take account of the strategies and activities of new highly competitive suppliers, local, national and internationally.
- Services in higher education are a growing activity which is branching out into: new modes of delivery, such as distance learning via the Internet, and new activities, such as educational support, educational testing, student exchange programs, and study-abroad facilitation services.





# Internationalization generates certain questions

- What are the challenges for individual institutions and national higher education systems in this global environment?
- How can the role of education in economic, cultural and social development be secured in both the industrialized and the developing nations?
- How can the pressures from an emerging knowledge-based society and economy be met?
- How do trade agreements, global as well as regional ones affect the control of government on their higher education system?
- How should quality assurance and accreditation issues be addressed at the national, regional, supranational and global levels?
- How can policy makers and higher education institutions develop a common platform on policy guidelines, frameworks and instruments?





## An Opportunity to Strengthen the “Internationalization”: Linkages between Higher Education Institutions

- Begin with the Faculty.
  - Collaborative research across USA and international borders and professional travel opportunities enable our professors to incorporate important global perspectives in the curricula.
- Offer students an important opportunity for immersion in a different culture.
  - Travel to countries throughout Asia, Europe, North and South America for a diverse selection of professional and general education programs.
- Use more distance education.
  - Development of the distance learning program is a major point to be an active participant in the global society and to be available to USA and international audiences.



## The main recommendation...

- Many people have forgotten the human and ideological principles that gave origin to the internationalization: the act for a university, to declare itself a "world citizen"
- To develop global and international engaged institutions, we should consider human nature and its possibilities.



## Profile of a “really international and internationalized student”

- Demonstrate knowledge of global issues, processes, trends and cultural practices,
- Understand the culture in a global and comparative context,
- Demonstrate a willingness to seek out international or intercultural opportunities,
- Learn foreign languages to access information, experiences, and understanding of other countries and cultures, and
- Accept cultural differences and tolerate cultural ambiguity.



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*That is the difference between teaching to be just an “educated” and to be an “internationally educated” person.*

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