Choosing wisely: strategies to defend international cooperation in turbulent times

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What are we looking for in a partner?

Motivation for institutions to develop strategic partnerships

Multiple answers allowed

Extended opportunities for students 56%
Extended opportunities for faculty and researchers 52%
Global positioning 46%
Use of synergies / pooling of resources 40%
Improve research quality 39%
Increase research capacity 37%
Build institutional capacity 28%
Improve teaching quality 23%
Improve funding prospects 19%
Focus the resources on select partnerships 18%
Increase teaching capacity 18%


Formats of cooperation in strategic partnerships

Multiple answers allowed

Joint campuses 6%
Joint technology transfer initiatives 37%
Joint fundraising efforts 17%
Joint PostDoc positions 18%
Joint faculty positions 18%
Joint appointments (professors) 20%
Joint PR activities / communication / media outreach 22%
Joint promotion of young researchers 24%
Joint online teaching 32%
Joint use of(false) money funds 40%
Joint Ph.D. programs 41%
Joint large scale research clusters/initiatives 43%
Exchange of administrators 47%
Joint conferences, workshops, symposia 60%
Joint individual research projects 60%
Joint study degree programs 51%
Exchange of faculty 82%
Exchange of students 94%


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Brexit and university partnerships

- What message does BREXIT send to the world?
- How can we minimise negative impact?
- Edinburgh response to date
Our global engagement plan

• A map to deliver our strategic goals

• Global exchange
• Global Partnerships
• Global Community

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Globalisation: priorities at Edinburgh

Long term, wide & deep partnering activity
Aligning ‘bottom-up’ and ‘top-down’ activity
Delivering & Measuring Global Impact
Underpinning partnerships with funding
Overcoming differences in regulations/legislations
Making the most of our networks
Importance of relationship-building and investing time
University of Sydney partners February 2018
Building successful and sustainable partnerships

Do your homework

• Be sceptical about databases
• Speak to people!
• Set aside lots of time
• Seek out hidden gems
Building successful and sustainable partnerships

Create a joined up strategy
• Get friends on board
• Sign up internal partners
• Get the message across

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Building successful and sustainable partnerships

Be prepared to invest
• $950,000, 100 projects, 200 researchers

Measure your progress
• Checklist of achievements

Plan for the future
• Leverage external funding
• Create new synergies

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Internationalisation in Turbulent times: The Netherlands

• Political earthquakes in 2017
Effect on universities and internationalization

Universities/academia: out of touch, leftwing/liberal, science is just another opinion, facts don’t matter

Internationalisation: under threat because of nationalism, xenophobia, antiglobalism
How do we engage with our adversaries on and off campus

• Example Netherlands: backlash against international students

• Issues: housing and language of instruction

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Riz Razak

It's a bit shocking to see the 'No Internationals' sign posted basically everywhere. Also, bit sick of hearing the wide stereotypes given by the Dutchies for basically all international students as an excuse for all of this.
Quality argument: are international students good or bad for education?

• Language of instruction in some BA and all MA programmes changes to English
• At UU only 10% int. students
• Concern: quality of English of teachers and students
• Concern: survival of Dutch as language in science

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Questions?

- How do you get internal stakeholders to support your international strategy?
- How do you measure ROI from your international engagement?
- Do you invest funding into your partnerships?