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Report calls for an integrated approach to internationalisation

UK universities must take a more integrated approach to internationalisation if they are to benefit from overseas opportunities, according to a report from the UK Higher Education International Unit.

The Practice of Internationalisation: Managing International Activities in UK

Universities, is the first report from the research programme of the UK HE International Unit, and it argues that the full integration of an international strategy will enable universities to retain their leading position in the highly competitive global higher education market. The report aims to help universities manage their international activities in a more effective manner.

Some of the main findings of the report include:

- Internationalisation in UK higher education extends well beyond the International Office and student recruitment, impacting on almost every administrative area of the university, resulting in greater managerial complexity.
- There is a growing trend to setting up overseas offices – Middlesex University currently has 18 overseas offices across three continents.
- Six UK universities were used as case studies in the report to analyse how internationalisation is managed. Their responses reflect the diversity within the HE sector on approaches to tackling internationalisation.
- The report also looks at some competitor countries. For example, Australian international offices have a much higher profile and wider range of functions than their UK equivalents and place greater importance on internationalisation than the UK does.

- The management of Internationalisation is complex and will require more funding for it to be successful.
- The role of the Vice-Chancellor is vital in promoting and stressing the importance internationalisation and a shared commitment to internationalisation is needed in the Senior Management Team.

Dr Shaun Curtis, Head of the International Unit, said: "Most UK institutions are already revising or extending their international strategies, moving from the commercial objective of income generation to a broader one of developing partnerships with overseas institutions and opening overseas offices and branch campuses.

"The report's findings suggest that universities face new managerial challenges as internationalisation impacts on ever greater numbers of their employees."

The report concludes with 10 suggested '[Good Practice](#)' points for managing internationalisation, which it recommends might be used by the responsible senior manager to assess their institution's performance.

Notes

1. *The Practice of Internationalisation: Managing International Activities in UK Universities* is available to download from the UK HE International Unit website: www.international.ac.uk. Login and password details are required.
2. For further information contact Elizabeth Sheahan, Communications Officer, UK HE International Unit: 020 7419 5609 or email info@international.ac.uk
3. The UK Higher Education International Unit has been established to coordinate, promote and undertake activities designed to support UK universities in a globally competitive world. It is funded by the four Funding Councils for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as Universities UK and GuildHE.