The Evolving Landscape of Internationalization, student mobility: the Need to Revisit Quality of Higher Education

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Content

Section 1

Current Trends in
Global Student Mobility and Internationalization

Overview of Global Student Mobility Patterns

6,361,963
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AROUND THE WORLD

1 280 701   2 486 491   1 590 388

271 326   223 128   509 929

Current Mobility Trends

Global student mobility has seen significant growth, with millions of students pursuing education abroad, reflecting increasing demand for international qualifications and diverse learning experiences.

Regional Variations

Different regions exhibit unique mobility patterns, influenced by economic conditions, cultural ties, and educational opportunities, highlighting the need for tailored internationalization strategies.

Impact of Policy & macro-economic Changes

Government policies and bilateral agreements and global economic shifts play a crucial role in shaping student mobility trends, affecting visa regulations, funding opportunities, and institutional partnerships across borders.

2.6 Incoming student mobility in tertiary education, by level of study (2020)
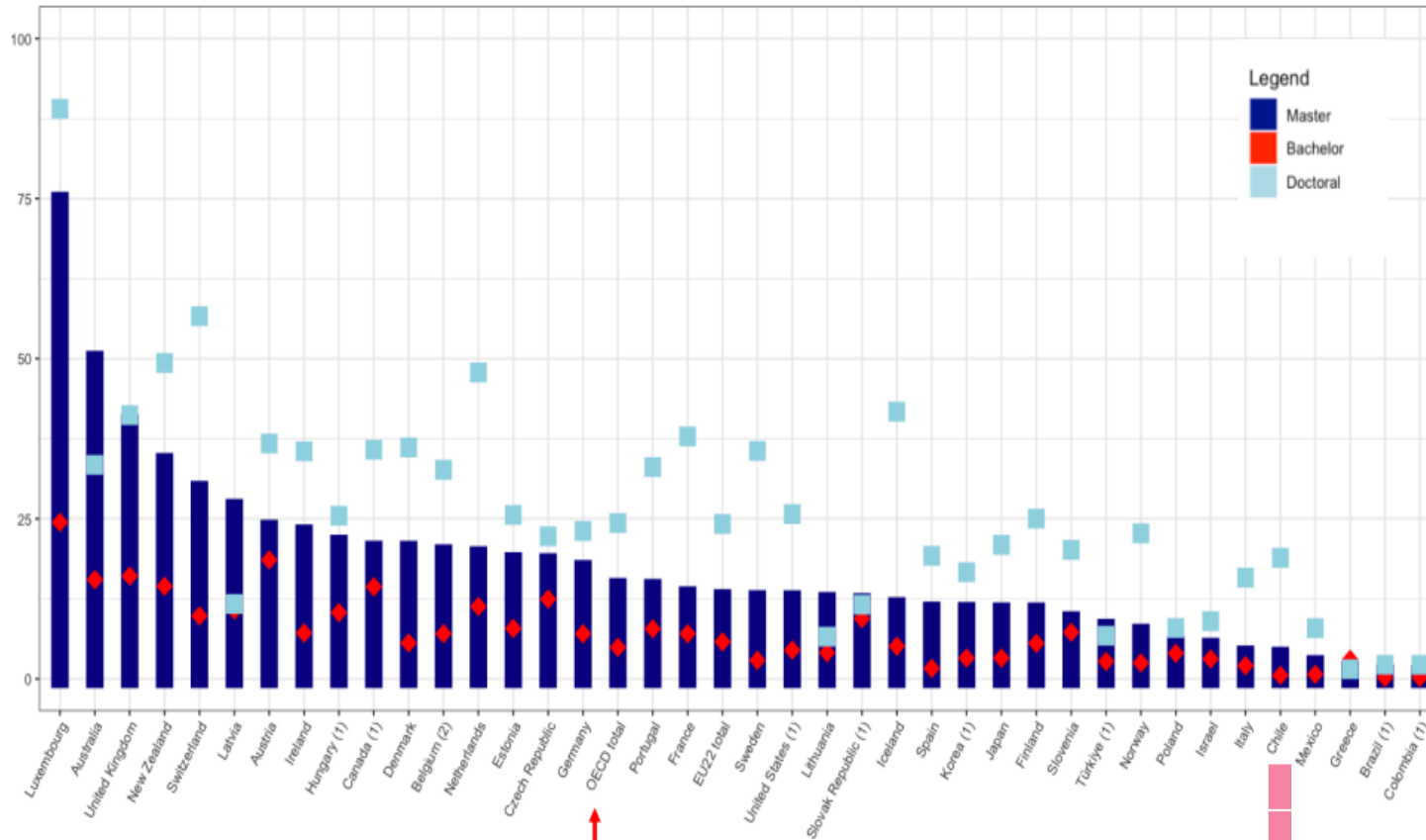
STRONG LINK btw Global GDP growth and outbound student mobility
In the two decades leading up to the COVID-19, global **outbound student mobility** increased at an average annual rate of about **5.5% per year.**
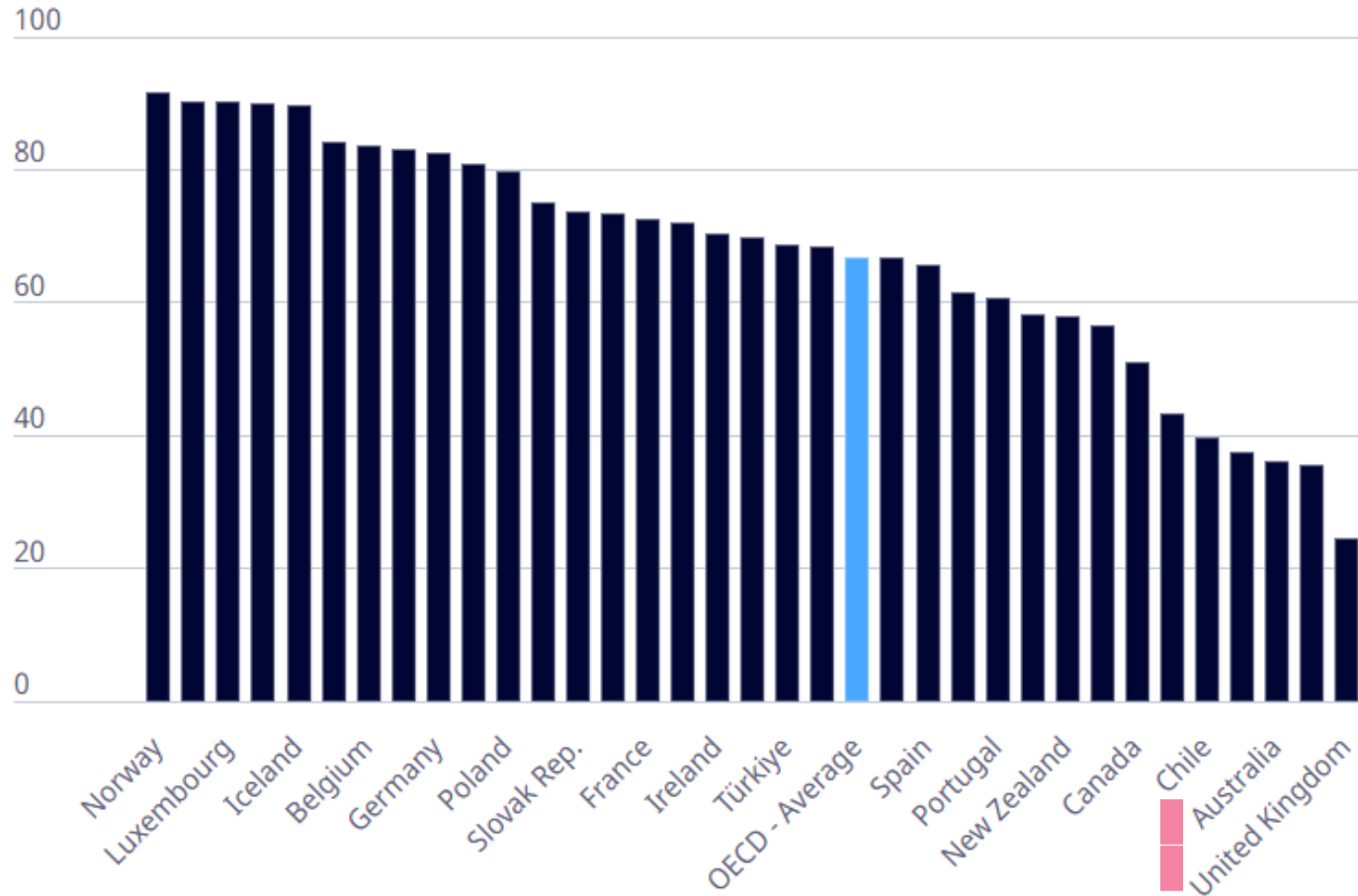
The Oxford Economics study predicts that this rate will slow to **4.2% up to 2030**

See:

https://monitor.icef.com/2024/03/new-analysis-projects-outbound-student-mobility-across-30-student-markets/

Spending on tertiary education
Public, % of education spending, 2020

OECD expenditure on Tertiary education,

Available at: https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/spending-on-tertiary-education.html

"high numbers of incoming (or foreign) students are viewed as indicating the **attractiveness and reputation of the hosting country** or institution. Therefore, the rate of foreign students among all students is employed as an indicator in some university "rankings" of "world-class universities" (Teichler, 2017)

See: Teichler, U. (2017) . Internationalisation Trends in Higher Education and the Changing Role of International Student Mobility. Journal of international Mobility, N° 5(1), 177-216. https://doi.org/10.3917/jim.005.0179.

Key Internationalization Trends in Higher Education

01

Increased Global Collaboration

Higher education institutions (HEIs) are forming strategic partnerships across borders, enhancing research opportunities and fostering academic exchanges that enrich the educational experience for students and

02

Focus on Quality Assurance

As internationalization expands, there is a growing emphasis on maintaining and improving quality standards in higher education, ensuring that programs meet global benchmarks and effectively serve diverse student

03

Integration of Technology

The rise of digital tools and online learning platforms is transforming internationalization efforts, enabling institutions to reach a broader audience and facilitate cross-cultural interactions in innovative

Implications of Current Trends for Quality Assurance

01

Need for Updated Standards

As internationalization evolves, higher education institutions must revisit and update quality assurance standards to ensure they align with global best practices and meet the diverse needs of international students.

02

Focus on Learning Outcomes

Emphasizing measurable learning outcomes in quality assurance frameworks is essential to assess the effectiveness of international programs and ensure that they provide valuable educational experiences for all students.

03

Stakeholder Engagement

Engaging various stakeholders, including students, faculty, and industry partners, in the quality assurance process is crucial for developing relevant criteria that reflect the changing landscape of higher education and internationalization.

Section 2

Historical Context of Internationalization in Higher Education

A Historical Perspective on Internationalization

Evolution of Internationalization

The concept of internationalization in higher education has evolved significantly since the mid-20th century, transitioning from a focus on academic exchanges to a comprehensive strategy that encompasses global partnerships, research collaboration, and student mobility, reflecting broader geopolitical changes.

Impact of Historical Events

Major historical events, such as the Cold War and globalization, have shaped internationalization efforts, influencing policies and practices in higher education institutions worldwide, necessitating a continuous reassessment of quality and relevance in educational offerings.

The Nationalist Keynesian Model and Its Impact on Universities

The Nationalist Keynesian Model emphasized State intervention in the economy, which led to **increased public funding for universities**, fostering a focus on **national priorities in higher education.**
International student mobility focused on "returning and facilitating progress in one's own country"
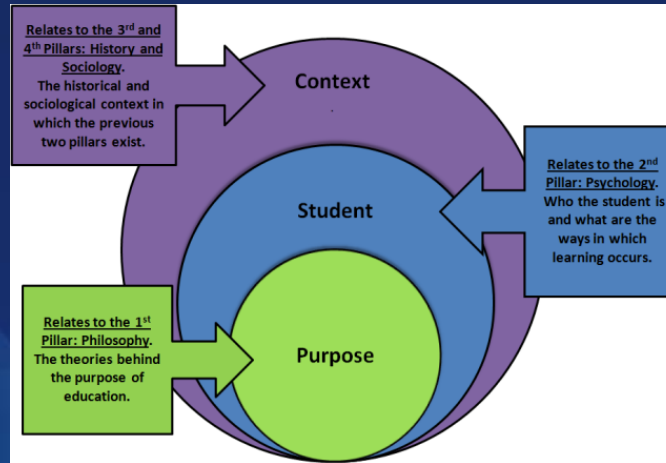
The Transition to Neoliberalism & Globalization

Shift in Educational Paradigms

The transition to **neoliberalism** and **globalization** has fundamentally altered the landscape of higher education, prioritizing **market-driven** approaches that emphasize **efficiency, competition, and the commodification of education**, thereby challenging traditional notions of academic quality and accessibility.

Lessons Learned from Historical Models

Relates to the 3rd and 4th Pillars: History and Sociology. The historical and sociological context in which the previous two pillars exist.

Context

Relates to the 2nd Pillar: Psychology. Who the student is and what are the ways in which learning occurs.

Student

Relates to the 1st Pillar: Philosophy. The theories behind the purpose of education.

Purpose

1. Understanding the temporal and contextual factors by and to which higher education institutions should adapt and respond
2. Eclectic learning from the past to create the most relevant strategies

3. balancing global aspirations with local educational needs
4. advocating for a model of internationalization that enhances quality
5. fostering community engagement and social responsibility within higher education.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

IMPACT INVESTING

SOCIAL IMPACT: HEALTH

NONPROFIT & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

SOCIAL IMPACT CONSULTING

what is SOCIAL IMPACT?

HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS

CORPORATE SOCIAL IMPACT

SOCIAL IMPACT: EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC SECTOR & PUBLIC POLICY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Section 3

The Impact of COVID-19
on Internationalization Practices

Changes in Internationalization Due to the Pandemic

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Shift to Virtual Engagement?

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of virtual platforms for international collaboration, necessitating a reevaluation of traditional internationalization strategies and highlighting the importance of digital competencies in maintaining global academic connections.

Innovations in Virtual Exchange and Collaborative Learning

Enhanced Digital Platforms

The development of advanced digital platforms facilitates seamless virtual exchanges, allowing students from diverse backgrounds to collaborate on projects, share knowledge, and engage in cross-cultural learning experiences without physical barriers.

Interactive Learning Experiences

Innovative tools such as virtual reality and gamification are being integrated into collaborative learning environments, enhancing student engagement and providing immersive experiences that simulate real-world international interactions.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Institutions are increasingly focusing on assessing the effectiveness of virtual exchange programs through robust evaluation frameworks, ensuring that these initiatives contribute meaningfully to students' academic and personal growth in a global context.

The Role of Technology in Facilitating Internationalization

Digital Learning Platforms

The integration of digital learning platforms allows institutions to offer flexible, accessible education, enabling students from diverse backgrounds to engage in international learning experiences without geographical constraints.

Virtual Collaboration Tools

Technology facilitates real-time collaboration among students and faculty across borders, fostering cross-cultural communication and enhancing the global learning environment through shared projects and discussions.

Data Analytics for Improvement

Utilizing data analytics helps institutions assess the effectiveness of internationalization strategies, allowing for informed decision-making that enhances program quality and student outcomes in a global context.

Digitalisation of Higher Education: Techno-capitalism?

- Exclusion worldwide

- Inclusion for whom?

- Quality Assurance of providers and degrees?

- The rise of micro-credentials

- Int'l and regional gudielines for digital higher education and micro-credentials

Revisiting Quality Standards

The post-COVID landscape necessitates a critical reassessment of quality assurance frameworks in higher education, emphasizing the integration of innovative teaching methods and digital competencies to enhance the internationalization process and ensure equitable access to quality education for all students.

Refer to: https://www.screenface.net/thoughts-on-what-works-and-why-olt-project-2016/
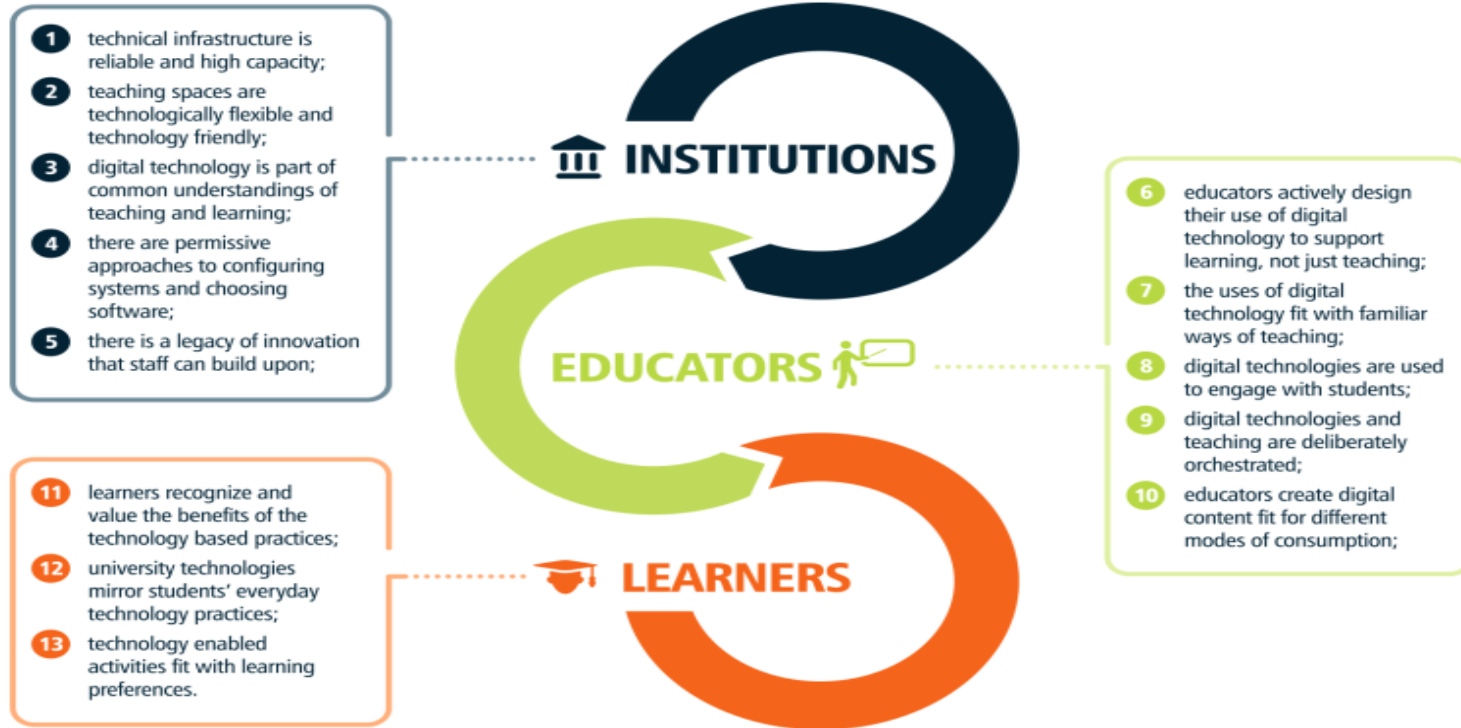
Reassessing Quality in a Changed Landscape

Need for Quality Re-evaluation

The evolving landscape of internationalization necessitates a comprehensive reassessment of quality metrics in higher education, ensuring they align with contemporary educational demands and global standards.

Integration of Diverse Perspectives

Incorporating diverse cultural and educational perspectives into quality assurance processes is essential for fostering inclusivity and relevance in international programs, enhancing the overall educational experience for students.

Focus on Sustainable Development Goals

Aligning quality assurance frameworks with sustainable development goals promotes a holistic approach to education, ensuring that institutions not only deliver academic excellence but also contribute positively to global challenges.

Section 4

Future Directions for Internationalization and Quality in Higher Education

Revisiting Internationalization policy for Sustainable Development & Social Justice

01
Enhanced Global Collaboration

Internationalization fosters partnerships between institutions worldwide, promoting knowledge exchange and collaborative research that address global challenges, thereby contributing to sustainable development goals.

02
Cultural Competence & Global citizenship Development

Engaging in international education enhances students' cultural awareness and competencies, preparing them to navigate and contribute positively to an increasingly interconnected world.

03
Inclusive Socio-Economic Growth and Innovation

By attracting international talent and fostering diverse perspectives, internationalization drives innovation and economic growth, creating a more resilient and sustainable future for communities globally.

No Mistakes!
Curriculum Changes for Promoting Global Citizenship

Integrating Global & diverse Perspectives

Curriculum changes must incorporate global issues and diverse cultural perspectives, fostering critical thinking and empathy among students to prepare them for active participation in a interconnected world.

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No Mistakes!
Inclusive learning mobility

Opportunities for all, policies targeting the most disadvantaged students

Internationalization cannot be limited, as it has been, to showcasing the presence of international students in our universities (a lucrative business), the quality of internationalization relies on shifting our classroom practices, providing opportunities for social impact, engagement, and innovation

Intersectionality and life course approach to higher education inequality will help inclusive, equitable mobility

No Mistakes!
Training for university
Teachers and administration

Interdisciplinary, multi-cultural research & pedagogy; flexibility, linguistic and cultural knowledge

Implementing national and institutional internationalization strategies require professional development training on new technology, assessment and teaching in the era of sustainable development and digitalization for teaching staff; Diversity and equal opportunities in universities require relevant linguistic and cultural skills

No Mistakes! Partnerships and social impact

Internationlization also means institutional learning and exchanges for quality

Stronger partnerships, joint funding opportunities for research and student mobility, as well as collaborative regional and international projects lead to institutional learning that can in turn bear positive impact on internal and external quality assurance mechanisms beyond reporting and benchmarking

Engagement with communities to learn and share knowledge is an essential part of universities' social impact and their quality as engines of change

Enhancing Participatory Teaching and Learning Approaches

Active Learning Strategies

Implementing active learning strategies, such as collaborative projects and peer teaching, fosters deeper engagement among students, encouraging them to take ownership of their learning while developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for global citizenship.

Feedback and Reflection

Incorporating regular feedback mechanisms and reflective practices into participatory teaching enhances student learning outcomes, allowing learners to assess their understanding and adapt their approaches, ultimately leading to a more inclusive and effective educational environment.

Final thoughts on quality in HEIs

If the structure does not permit dialogue the structure must be changed.

Paulo Freire

"The teacher is of course an artist, but being an artist does not mean that he or she can make the profile, can shape the students. What the educator does in teaching is to make it possible for the students to become themselves."

Paulo Freire, "We Make the Road by Walking: Conversations on Education and Social Change"

It has been one hour of pleasure for me, it's now time for Q&A

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