Creating international opportunities for U.S. graduate students: CGS workshop

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Plan for the workshop

9:00-10:15 a.m. Presentations and discussion
  • Karen DePauw
  • Libby Lyons
  • Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko
  • Richard Bernard

10:15-10:30 a.m. Break

10:30-11:25 a.m. Table discussion and report out

11:25 a.m. Concluding thoughts
Slides for presentation by Karen P. DePauw
Internationalization (Knight, 2014)

“intentional process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimensions into the purpose, functions and delivery of post-secondary education, in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make meaningful contributions to society"
Internationalization (de Wit, 2015)

process that helps universities increase the quality of education, research and service to society
International university (Knight, 2011; deWit, 2015)

- *internationally collaborative* - variety of international partnerships, international students and staff and collaborative activities
- *internationally active* - satellite offices, branch campuses, research centers
- *international operative* - universities with partner institutions from different countries
In what ways do institutions create and provide meaningful international experiences for graduate students?

How do institutions administer and finance international programs and research experiences?

What are the barriers and challenges?

What are some examples of best practices?
In what ways do institutions provide meaningful international experiences for graduate students?

- Study abroad programs
- Exchange programs
- Dual degree programs
- Research visits - abroad
- Visiting Scholars
- Graduate courses
- International conferences
- Research collaborations
  - international committee members
  - co-advisor
  - digital "labs"
How do institutions support (offer) meaningful international experiences for graduate students?

- Research Assistantships
- Travel grants
- Fellowships (internal, external)
- Conference presentations
- Graduate certificate (e.g., intl research)
- Course credit/plan of study
- Future employment & post docs
- Grants
- Publications
- Patents and IP guidance
Some barriers

- lack of institutional commitment to internationalization
- financial aid
- tax limitations
- time away from “lab”
- visa limitations
- continuous enrollment policies
- lack of encouragement and support from faculty advisors
- lack of reward and incentives for faculty
- unarticulated benefits for graduate students
- concern about return on investment (ROI)
- limited financial resources
Questions to ponder

- for all not just the mobile few
- develop global, international and intercultural skills (KSA) - “thinking globally” (home and abroad)
- asking research questions differently? global challenges?
- societal impact of research - globally relevant research?
- local impact of international research (vis versa)
- role of international students
Some initial musings for success

• typically success is based on individual faculty commitment to internationalization and established connections

• assumes that institutions value internationalization & encourages and rewards faculty commitment

• related to international university type
Two examples from Virginia Tech - *internationally collaborative university*

- GRAD 5214 (3) Diversity and Inclusion in Global Society

- Future professoriate and global perspectives program including 21st century faculty program
Global perspectives program

- Preparing future professoriate (PFP) – program within Transformative Graduate (TGE) initiative
- Established by the Graduate School in 2005
- Graduate “study abroad” – 2 weeks in May
- University visits and cultural experiences
Since 2006  12+4 programs
150+ participants
6 summits at Swiss Embassy
6+ web published manuals
With strong leadership from the Graduate School at Virginia Tech, Institutions of higher education and policy around the world are working toward an ambitious future of global higher education.

https://futureprof.global#gppch17
Global Perspectives Program, Summer 2017

The Virginia Tech Graduate School Global Perspectives Scholars traveled to Switzerland, France, and Italy for an intensive program of research and collaboration with fellow scholars as they explored issues affecting global higher education.

Global Perspectives Program (GPP) - 2010 +

partnership with University of Basel

• Seminar in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland

• Conference at Swiss Embassy, Washington DC
Global Seminar participants & Swiss Embassy
Global Perspectives Program (GPP: Switzerland): selected themes

- Higher education as public good: the global landscape
- Global higher education: accountability & relevance
- EU ‘modernizing’ higher education 2020+
- Reforming doctoral education
- Access to and within higher education
- University and society: meeting expectations?
- Future of higher education: preparing for change
- Global graduate education
Preparing the future professoriate: global perspectives and 21st century faculty initiative
Leading the conversation in Latin America
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Discussion and table questions

Q1: What are the three primary ways that you provide meaningful international experiences for graduate students? How do you incorporate a broad inclusive graduate student population (e.g., master's students, students across the disciplines)

Q2: Where are the programs administered and how are they financed? How have you developed partnerships?

Q3: How have you overcome barriers to create these opportunities?

Q4: What "lessons learned" can you share?
Thank you!