

‘Internationalisation of Higher Education’?

Discuss the statement allocated to your group, drawing on your experiences of previous work packages and any other experiences to do so.

- What does the statement mean?
- To what extent do you agree/disagree with the points contained in it?
- Can you provide specific examples from your own experience that help to clarify/illustrate your agreement/disagreement?

Statement 1:

Genuine globalisation should be grounded in cross-cultural fertilisation and mutual learning rather than conformity and convergence to a universal set of benchmarks that deter or discourage diverse local features...Internationalisation is not the same as Europeanisation or Americanisation. It should be genuinely international...appreciating diversity and plurality across nations and societies (Cheung, 2012, p.106)

Statement 2:

More detailed definitions of internationalisation relate only in the broadest sense to what people in universities do while they are at work every day. The majority of accounts to date have focused discussions in theoretical, policy and market areas or have explored the experiences of international students rather than the more varied concerns of academics and managers (Turner & Robson, 2008, p.5)

*** Statement 3:**

The international dimension can be complicated as the “other” or “foreigner” can refer to those who are not of the country’s majority population or to other nationalities from outside the country. The definition of an “international” versus “local” dimension is thus more complex among heterogenic, segregated populations (Cohen, Yemeni & Sadeh, 2013, p.4) and “a national strategy to internationalize may also interfere with local and institutional values” (Skrbis & Woodward, 2007 cited ibid)

Statement 4:

[Many institutions now want to] achieve more intensive and self-transformative international experiences. They want to bring an international dimension to the knowledge content of the curriculum, to enhance global skill-building and to improve intercultural relations in culturally mixed classrooms. They want to move from rhetoric and bland mission statements, to changing the nature of the education that everyone receives (Marginson, 2013, p.14).