Leeds Beckett University Development Day

The quality assurance of transnational education (TNE)

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The quality assurance of TNE

Starts and ends with you!
Challenges for Quality Assurance of HE

• Political, societal and economic contexts
• A less predictable but more inter-connected world
• Addressing the diversity of stakeholder expectations
• Effective engagement with and between actors
• Quests for excellence
2015-2016: years of reviews, consultations, proposals and recommendations and more for HE in the UK

• The review of the assessment of quality (EWNI), then new process
• CMA report on regulation in Higher Education
• The Nurse Review – Ensuring a Successful Research Endeavour
• The Metric Tide: Hefce review of the role of metrics in research assessment and management
• Funding Councils review of information about learning and teaching and the student experience. (Changes proposed to Unistats and NSS)
• Comprehensive Spending Review
• The Green Paper, then the White Paper, then the Higher Education and Research Bill

And........
The quest for excellence

Some international examples:

• China: 985 and 211 projects
• Germany: Excellence Initiative
• Norway: Centres of Excellence

Common factors

• Rationale – international competitiveness and reputation
• Project based not rating ......but not averse to ranking
• Focus on research
• Substantial funding granted
Trends in Quality Assurance (1)

• The familiar mantra of principles of QA but divergence in practice and process – ‘same same but different’
• Familiar debates over scope, focus, burden and cost of QA processes
• The development, status and ownerships of standards
• The location of QA in the regulatory landscape
Trends in Quality Assurance (2)

• An emerging, new terminology or re-badging?
  – Risk, risk-based
  – Outcomes focused
  – Sanctions
  – Differentiation
  – Affordability

• Use of data from external sources – the search for the ‘magic’ metrics.
Responses

• USA
  – The College Scorecard
  – Executive action and USDE ‘letters’ to accreditors

• TEQSA (Australia) – Annual Provider Information Request

• England: Hefce revised operating method for quality assessment, and the TEF
The quality assurance of TNE

• Inter-governmental organisation interest: Unesco/OECD Guidelines; Council of Europe Code of Practice

• QA networks collaboration:
  – QACHE toolkit
  – ESG
  – QBBG

• Bilateral cooperation between host and provider

• National agencies including QAA

• HE institutions – alone and in partnership
What next for the QA of TNE?

USA
• What’s TNE?
• No data
• Often no accreditation for forms of TNE other than branch campuses

Australia
• Data on Offshore student numbers included in international student data
• TEQSA seeks evidence of equivalence of student learning outcomes
• Higher Education Standards Framework includes a range of provisions relevant to offshore operations
The quality assurance of UK TNE (until now)

- Applicability of the Quality Code especially Chapter B.10
- Inclusion of TNE in QAA domestic reviews
- Long history of visits to in-country TNE provision
- Published reports
- Increasing partnership and cooperation between QAA and national agencies in major destination nations
- Data on aggregate student numbers from HESA
What next for the QA of UK TNE?

• Recommendations of Implementation Group on outcomes of national consultation on QA of TNE (2015) BUT......

• International aspects of quality assessment (Hefce 2016)
  – Retaining some aspects of current arrangements
  – Reinforcing need for ‘a richer set of outcomes data’ from HESA to be integrated into Annual Provider Review processes
  – Building relationships with regulatory and QA bodies in host countries
  – Regular published reports

• What’s new? Inclusion of TNE in Gateway process

• Articulation of expectations concerning UK provider governing body
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Starts and ends with you!
Thank you for listening!
Join us in Kuala Lumpur for our Global Forum on TNE including a multinational session on QA
9-11 November 2016
www.obhe.ac.uk