

Leeds Beckett University Development Day

The quality assurance of transnational education (TNE)

Carolyn Campbell

Carolyn.Campbell@obhe.ac.uk

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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 ratingbut 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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Thank you for listening!

Join us in Kuala Lumpur for our Global Forum on TNE including a multinational session on QA

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