

UK-KYRGYZSTAN UNIVERSITIES FORUM

Internationalising Higher Education in Kyrgyzstan

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Internationalisation continues to be an important topic for higher education globally. Internationalisation is of great importance in ensuring the sustainability of educational institutions at the national level, as well as their ability to compete in the global market, contributing to the development of the country and its people.

Priorities of the UK Universities:

- **Partnerships.** UK Higher Education sector is looking for new models of working with global partners.
- **Student mobility.** Internationalisation of academic sector targets to increase outward mobility, as well as to enable diversity and intercultural understanding, and international opportunities for all students.
- **Research.** Increased reach and impact.
- **Diversification.** New business models of partnerships in response to domestic challenges.
- **Mission and strategy.** Alignment to Industrial Strategy key sectors and professions.

Types of partnerships UK universities prefer:

- Broad partnerships, often more than one area within several years.
- Various types of [Transnational Education \(TNE\)](#): education and training opportunities that are provided in more than one country. Higher education is granted by a United Kingdom awarding degree in another country, and often by a provider institution other than the awarding institution.
- Franchising programmes: a process by which a degree-granting institution agrees to authorize the provider institution to run one or more of its own programs in whole or in part.
- Validation programmes: a process in which a degree-granting institution recognizes a programme or its elements developed and implemented by another institution and approves them as an appropriate standard and quality that promotes or leads to the receipt of one of the degrees assigned to it.
- External validation programmes: a process by which an external independent agency reviews university's self-assessment.
- Articulation agreements: a process in which all students who meet academic criteria under one programme automatically have the right (on academic grounds) to be taken with advanced status to the next stage of the institution awarding the degree programme (accumulation and transfer of credits).

Successful partnerships can include a wide range of activity, cooperation in scientific research, mobility of teachers and students, and transnational education.

In choosing partners, UK universities like working with quality partners that:

- Have ambitious, growth / development strategies

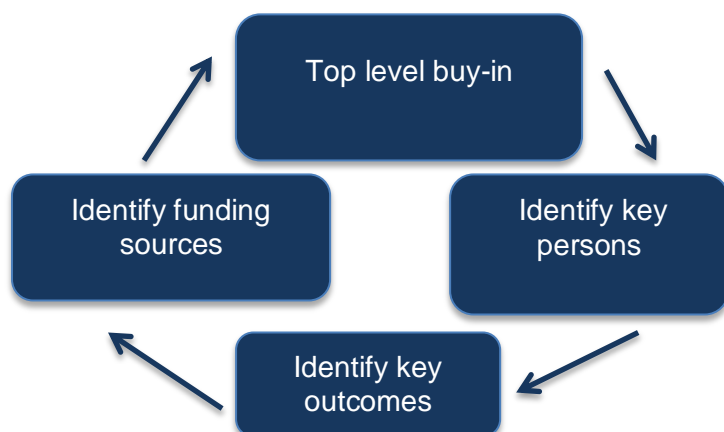
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- Prioritise student and staff experience
- Have equitable standards – and can navigate the quality framework in-country as part of the partnership
- Have some use of English language and support for English language training
- Have previous international experience and decision-making powers
- Will think creatively about suitable partnership models

Criteria for measuring quality:

Institutional and subject ranging;
Accreditation;
Research active Staff;
Existing international engagement;
Previous experience and partners in transnational education;
Finance, governance structures
Infrastructure (IT, libraries, laboratories)

Essentials for successful academic partnership:



- Positive impact of BREXIT on UK future focus on the Central Asia region;
- Benefits of a consortium approach between universities from across the Central Asia region;
- Benefits of using a 'gatekeeper' as facilitator and bridge between the different academic cultures of each partner;
- Build partnerships on existing personal relationships where possible;
- Be ready to commit much time and resource in the first years of a new partnership.

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The Open University Partnership strategy based on helping partners build local capacity and capabilities in delivering high-quality education.

Options for partnerships:

- Licensed Open University content
- Consultancy services
- Harnessing innovative education technologies
- Validation services
- Training in development of online pedagogy

Detailed information can be found here:

<http://partnerships-brochure.open.ac.uk/education-partnerships>

Contact person: Viren Patel, Viren.Patel@open.ac.uk

Teesside University

Options for partnerships:

- Semester based student exchange (MA) in the following subjects:
 - Digital City, smart city, big data
 - Energy systems
 - Multidisciplinary design and architecture
 - Journalism
 - Sports marketing
 - Energy and sustainability
- Staff development;
- Research collaborations and professional doctorates

Detailed information can be found here:

<https://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/about/governance/partners.cfm>

Contact person: George Hunt, George.hunt@tees.ac.uk

Doctoral Training Alliance

Options for partnerships:

- Student exchange;
- Faculty/Staff exchange;
- Co-development of research projects;
- Joint applications for research

Detailed information can be found here: <https://unialliance.ac.uk/dta/>

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