

The Importance of Internationalization of Higher Education

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Our world is changing very fast due to the technological developments especially in communication. With these developments, nothing stays local. Both goodness and badness are being spread all over the world just by couple of keyboard clicks. In other words, globalization is knocking our doors without skipping even a single door. Globalization is forcing us to rearrange our position individually, institutionally, and even governmentally while competitions, requirements, needs and demands are extending from their local meaning to global meaning.

Higher education institutions (HEIs) receive their share from this trend and find themselves in the middle of global competition, demands, and needs. The globalization forces HEIs to internationalize their curriculum, faculties, students, and even their perspectives of education.

In this point, I would like to remind you that globalization and internationalization have different meaning. Basically globalization means cross cultural standardization that arises with communication technologies and expended around the globe. *Globalization, in its broadest form, describes social processes that transcend national borders. While the concept of globalizations spans separate, overlapping domains, it is fundamentally an economic process of integration that transcends national borders and ultimately affects the flow of knowledge, people, values and ideas (yang, 2000).* Besides, term of globalization is used to explain military, environment, social and cultural elements as well as economic components -like trade, finance, and investment.

The globalization influences HEIs by market competition and altering the universities' faces, therefore the globalization forces HEIs to become international institutions. Even though there are a lot of interpretations of internationalization, it is generally interpreted as an *Ongoing Process That Leads To Increase The Awareness And Operation Of Interactions Within And Between Cultures, And Nurturing Both National And Cultural Diversity Within In The Local Community Itself (Nagamine)*. As mentioned above, Internationalization of HEIs - one of the results of the globalization- aims to satisfy the gigantic world widely demands that cannot be met by a single or local institutions. The main tools for the process are foreign student admissions, recruitment of international faculties, student exchanges, faculty exchanges, study abroad programs, joint researches, joint degree programs and double degree programs.

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