Internationalisation of the curriculum as means to develop employability skills

View from the Industry
Internationalisation of the curriculum as means to develop employability skills

Impact for university policies:

1. **Beyond language proficiency** ➔ efficient and culturally appropriate communication

2. **Beyond discovering another culture** ➔ learning to work and collaborate in an international/intercultural environment

3. **Beyond classic international partnerships** ➔ partners outside Europe and academia

 ➔ cornerstone: innovative pedagogy! Importance of teacher-led activities
Examples of bottom-up initiatives at UCL

Initiatives to develop entrepreneurship, creativity, problem solving and flexibility

All spontaneously included an international component as means to develop these attributes
Fostering creativity

- 48h kick-off around a challenge (e.g. make it possible to go down steps with a wheelchair)
- Workshops (mix of theory and practice)
- 1 week of prototype construction in the Fablab of a partner university abroad
- Pitches of the solutions to a jury (including members of industry)
Finding a sustainable solution to a local problem in a developing country

✓ All year preparation at UCL (mix of theory and practice) to build a prototype in connection with local university students or a local NGO

✓ One month stay in the host country to build the solution with local materials
Interdisciplinary Master in Entreprise creation

Learning all about entrepreneurship
✓ Weekly courses
✓ Coursework and master thesis in interdisciplinary groups
✓ Short stay at a university abroad to exchange ideas
✓ Collaboration with the professionnal innovation ecosystem of Louvain (incubators, transfert of technology office, etc)
Learning about diplomatic negotiation in an international environment

- Weekly training sessions supervised by professors
- Participation in international conferences and simulation days
New forms of mobility

At UCL, 25% of students do part of their curriculum abroad

Increasing demands for internships abroad = 20% of mobility
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China Belgium Technology center - opportunity

1,600 jobs (40% for Chinese staff)
75,000 sqm office space
Hotels and restaurants
5 minutes away from Louvain-La-Neuve Centre

Plan to build education projects around this centre
Internationalisation of the curriculum
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Key challenges:

1. **Beyond language proficiency** ➔ efficient and culturally appropriate communication
   ➔ How to evaluate this?

2. **Beyond discovering another culture** ➔ learning to work and collaborate in an international/intercultural environment
   ➔ How to make such opportunity available to all in a « mass university »?

3. **Beyond classic international partnerships** ➔ partners outside Europe and academia
   ➔ Cultural challenge including for authorities