Strategies of Mobility Programmes

Dr. Aye Thu Htun

Professor

Dept. of Commerce

Yangon University of Economics

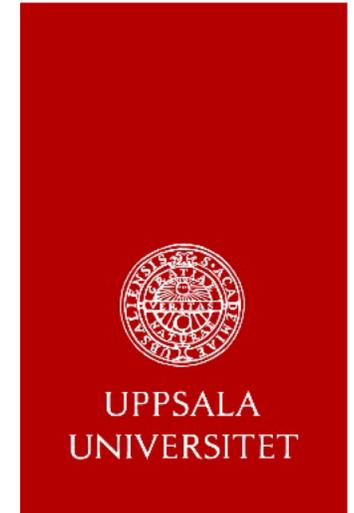# Objectives of the Presentation

- To improve International Relation Office (IRO)

- To enhance and modernize the mobility programmes

- To have an idea of YUEco International Relation Office Handbook

- To share the knowledge concerning the mobility programmes

Why should we even have partnerships or participate in Mobility Programmes?

❖ Foundation of more "advanced" bilateral and multilateral partnerships

❖ Allow a broader offering of courses

❖ Not just exchange studies!

❖ Offer experience on academic programmes at another university

❖ Achieve and expand the educational experience and

❖ Enhance the understanding of global issues and perspectives related to the fields of study

We have a very concise strategy

- International cooperation and exchange will be deepened

- Internationalisation will drive quality and enhance skills

- The University will be an attractive choice for teachers, researchers and students from all over the world

Strategies of Mobility Programmes

Partner Search: Choosing partners

❖Current partners

❖Look at the pool of potential recruits

❖Related subject areas

❖Ranking

❖Preparatory visits

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Sustainable Agreements

❖In a mobility perspective

- Mutual interest

- Start small and allow growth

- Involve teaching staff

- Involve administrative staff

❖In an organisational perspective

- Assign a coordinator

- Build support/increase buy-in within your own organisation

- Clear administrative structures at your partner

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Different types of agreements

❖Main takeaway: Identify a partner, *then* identify the best agreement form

❖ Choose level

      - University-wide

      - Faculty-wide

      - Departmental

Strategies of Mobility Programmes

❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)

- ✓ Not legally binding

- ✓ Not strictly necessary

- ✓ Doesn't really *do* anything

- ✓ But can make future collaboration easier to "sell in"

❖ Student Exchange Agreement (SEAs)

- ✓ It is legally binding

- ✓ It is necessary to exchange students, and even staff

- ✓ The challenge: you are navigating two different legal frameworks!

- ✓ Solution:
    - Only include clauses you can actually deliver on
    - If you need to choose a neutral third party to solve disputes (eg. Swiss courts)

- ✓ Build in flexibility

A Little Bit about Courses and Internationalisation tools

❖Courses taught in English

✓Quality not quantity

✓Supply/demand–what are you offering vs what do your students want to take

✓Flexibility vs "packages"

❖Develop database

✓You've got to keep your data somewhere!

✓More data = greater need to keep track of it

✓You can get away with a well structured Excel document, and a simple online application form

✓Spending time structuring your data will be useful *if* you decide to invest in mobility management software in the future

International Relations Office

- is responsible for fostering the internationalization of the university

- is structured to be well-functioning in the tasks of formulating a proper internationalization policy, designing and implementing internationalization projects, collaborating and coordinating with international partners, and promoting and facilitating the international mobility of students, teachers, and staff of the university

- is important to have a proper policy framework as the IRO plays an important role in supporting internationalization of the university by evolving and changing standards and trends in the international environment

The Role of the IRO

1. Developing & implementing an internationalization strategy for the institution under the guidance of the university council/board of management. The IRO must identify a number of external and internal challenges that affect the progress of the university's goal towards becoming a prominent global university.

2. Supporting faculty members in teaching and researching in collaboration with international organizations, and encouraging student participation in study abroad programmes by creating linkages between partner organizations.

3. Promoting student and staff mobility including reciprocal exchange programmes.

4. Disseminating and exchanging information between the home university and its partners through various platforms.

5. Acquiring and disseminating information relating to scholarship and fellowship programmes.

6. Searching for partners and drafting MoUs/MoAs for collaborative research/teaching activities and/or students/staff exchange with partner universities.

The Role of the IRO

7. Establishing a network among faculty members in respective fields to coordinate faculty mobility programmes after finalizing an MoU/MoA

8. Organizing multicultural and/or social activities in every semester to facilitate intercultural Interactions

9. Managing and facilitating international cooperation programmes and projects

10. Advising and guiding the students seeking international mobility opportunities

11. Organizing international events such as workshops, conferences, meetings etc.

12. Seeking the opportunities to strengthen research capacity of faculty members and students through international collaborations

13. Facilitating cooperation and coordination of faculties and departments of the home university with international partners

14. Organizing cultural exchange programmes, events, and activities for visiting scholars and students from partner universities/organizations

Competency for IRO Staff

The staff members of IRO should have the following qualifications:

1. Able to work effectively in English

2. ICT skills

3. Knowledgeable in intercultural communications

4. Ability to strengthen connectivity and collaboration with international partners.

5. Ability to prepare, draft, and process MoUs/MoAs with international partners

6. Experience in event management

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the IRO

➢Time taken to process the documents

➢Number of cooperative research activities over the past 3 years

➢Effective MOU/MOA/Exchange Notes (EN), etc

➢Number of exchange activities/programmes

➢Number of international students registered per year

➢Number of academics

➢Number of collaborative projects

➢Number of collaborative programmes/projects with embassies

➢Number of international conferences, workshops, and events

➢Number of awareness programmes for students and faculty members

➢Number of scholarship and grant opportunities for international research and academic programmes

Quality Assurance System

- A quality assurance system should be operationalized systematically and identify areas of improvement for a well functioning IRO

1. Maintaining accountability and transparency by eliminating any conflict of interest when executing its internationalization activities

2. Developing Effective, efficient, and comprehensive working procedures

3. Having Effective and systematic filing, and record-keeping

4. Having proper guidelines to make the work easier and to ensure it's being executed properly

5. Developing Effective communication channels.

6. Establishing proper and timely dissemination of accurate information.

Internationalization/Mobility in the University Strategic Plan

- Internationalization strategies should be included in the university's strategic plan

- Partner universities understand the university's future plans, especially for internationalization.

- the IRO should establish its activities in a systematic way based on the overall objectives and the expected outcomes of the university's strategic plan.

Asynchronous/Synchronous Online Training

- Further development of internationalization strategies, functions, and performance of IROs, their staff are mainly dependent on capacity development training programmes.

- Although face-to-face training is recommended, during the COVID 19 pandemic virtual asynchronous/synchronous training programmes with selected partner universities are preferable for disseminating information and stimulating the interest of international students to participate in their preferred university's mobility programmes.

Thank you for your kind attention!