How International Partnerships are Affected by COVID-19: Perspective from the US

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JUNE 10, 2020
Priority activities for internationalization

#1 Increasing study abroad for US students
#2 Recruiting international students
#3 Partnerships with institutions abroad
#4 Internationalizing the curriculum/co-curriculum
#5 Faculty development

ACE Mapping Internationalization, 2017
72% institutions reporting that internationalization has accelerated in recent years (as compared with 64% in 2011)

ACE Mapping Internationalization, 2017
Institutional Closures as a Result of COVID-19 in Spring 2020

- 96% Canceled on-campus events
- 91% Closed campus buildings and offices
- 88% Canceled international travel for staff/faculty
- 82% Canceled international travel for students
- 77% Canceled domestic travel for staff/faculty
- 54% Closed dormitories and student housing
International students in the US

- 441 Institutions reported international students on campus in spring 2020.
- 251,385 International students.
- 18,551 Left the United States due to COVID-19.
- 92% Remain in the United States on campus or in another location.

Institute for International Education, From Emergency Response to Planning for Future Student Mobility, May 2020
International Student Enrollment, Academic Year 2020/21

- 42%: Substantial increase
- 30%: Some increase
- 16%: Slight increase
- 10%: About the same as last year
- 10%: Slight decrease
- 10%: Some decrease
- 10%: Substantial decrease
Study abroad

285 institutions reported
22,041 students studying abroad at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak

253 of these institutions evacuated
17,787 students studying abroad
Student Interest in Study Abroad, Academic Year 2020/21

- 38%: Substantial decrease
- 28%: Slight decrease
- 19%: About the same as last year
- 11%: Some decrease
- 11%: Slight increase
- 28%: Some increase
- 0%: Substantial increase
Study Abroad Faces a New Reality

With no clear timeline for putting students on planes again, study abroad providers face layoffs and uncertain futures. And when they do resume regular programming, they’ll need new health and safety protocols.

By Elizabeth Redden    // April 28, 2020
15 Fall Scenarios

- A Late Start
- Structured Gap Year
- Modularity
- Modified Tutorial Model
- First-Year Intensive
- Split Curriculum
- Low-Residency Model
- HyFlex Model
- Graduate Students Only
- A Block Plan
- Students in Residence, Learning Virtually
- Moving Fall to Spring
- Targeted Curriculum
- Fully Remote

International education... without mobility?
The US Challenge

The future of academic internationalization?

- travel limits
- Stranded students
- Stranded faculty
- Disrupted programs
- Health & safety
- Budget cuts
- Student recruitment
- Student/parent fears
- new govt. scrutiny
- xenophobia
- Student recruitment
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- Travel limits
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Partnerships take on new importance

Having greater contact than ever
Assisting each other with difficulties
Showing solidarity
Finding creative solutions to mutual problems
When ‘locked down,’ we are reaching out to our partners

Assistance with international students who can’t get to campus
Virtual internships
Team projects
Guest speakers
Research talks related to COVID activities
Best practices workshops
More inter-region collaboration
Partnerships are moving internationalization to the core of the institution

Reconsider the purpose for global engagement
Re-introduce and reposition partnerships within our institutions and within our internationalization strategies
Become even more strategic in developing partnership portfolio
A greater focus on internationalization at home and curricular integration
Partnership Democratization: A discovery worth talking about
Thank you