Taking Virtual to the Next Level
Spotlight on German - U.S. Collaboration

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International Exchange Perspective: At the Point of no Return

- Many students, in particular underprivileged groups, do not have the resources for international exchange
- International travel produces CO2, contributes to climate change

How do we serve both causes without harming one of them?
As if there weren’t enough challenges: the pandemic

- International travel is restricted
- Social distancing can cause isolation
- Students with limited financial means are hit the hardest
- Universities struggle to organize teaching in new formats
- Can international exchange be a priority in the crisis?
Virtual Exchange builds a Dynamic Global Network

IVAC 2021-2022

- International university partnerships develop integrated virtual collaboration formats into their courses and integrate them into the curriculum.
- Students and lecturers apply digital and intercultural skills acquired through virtual cooperation.
- Virtual cooperation formats enable students and instructors to gain international experiences in order to further equal opportunity.
- Virtual cooperation formats are integrated into the teaching offers of the project partners by means of rapidly developing IT-services or relevant intersections.
- Participants in international virtual collaboration formats build a network and form a community of practice.
The Next Level of Virtual Exchange

- unlocking the potential of international talent through diversity
- using rapidly developing innovative technology
- science does not know borders

The next challenges:
- How will we create virtual cultural immersion?
- Breaking the limits of virtual communication: spontaneous and interactive feedback, unsurveilled communication
- Balancing personal and virtual encounters and exchange
UAS7 Virtual Academy: First Year Collaborations

- Management + Economic
- Environmental Engineering
- Computer Science
- Landscape Architecture
- STEM
- Science Communication
U.S. University Perspective: Let Faculty Lead!

• SIOs - activate faculty as chief international actors/agents/officers who

  • Engage Students

  • Innovate Curriculum

  • Showcase Internationalization

  • Level up Partnerships
Global Teaching & Learning in Times of Crisis & Stasis

• Student Engagement
  • During pandemic & shift to remote learning (then why not anytime?)
  • Academy: sense of belonging, real-world incubator (anti-escapism?)

• Curricular Innovation
  • Expand faculty expertise to target gaps & bridge disciplines
  • Access university/regional networks/resources: Applied Sciences, Research, niche...
Internationalization at Home, At Home with Internationalization?

• Institutional Buy-In
  • Faculty recruits from across Colleges/Schools, global/engagement leads
    • Engage their own networks & "manage up"
    • Contextualize with homegrown priorities & create buzz

  • Power of distributed vs. centralized internationalization? A good story when needed?

• Maximize Strategic Partnerships
  • Faculty & IOs join forces to go next level: more COIL, scholarship, MOUs
  • Hybrid virtual/mobility & teaching/research here to stay
    • Funding?: DAAD IVAC, Erasmus+, NSF IRES...

  • Virtual Exchange's current & future roles within Comprehensive Internationalization?
Grant giver’s perspective on virtual collaboration

- IMKD – International Mobility and Cooperation through Digitalization
- IVAC I – International Virtual Academic Collaboration & IP Digital
- IP Digital – International Programmes Digital

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
The IVAC program

Total volume of funding:
9 million €
~ 10,18 million $

Objectives
• Integrate virtual collaboration formats in curriculum
• International experiences
• Digital and intercultural skills
• Network & community of practice

Duration of funding:
1 year

IVAC I 2020
122
61

IVAC II 2021
172
61

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
Project examples

“VirtEx – Virtual excursion didactics towards sustainability“
University Hamburg cooperating with Université de Paris

“International Cross-Site Teaching“
University Düsseldorf cooperating with universities in South Korea and South Africa

HHU/Sigurd Steinprinz
Stay virtually connected

- Offline formats
- Digital formats
- Hybrid formats

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
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