

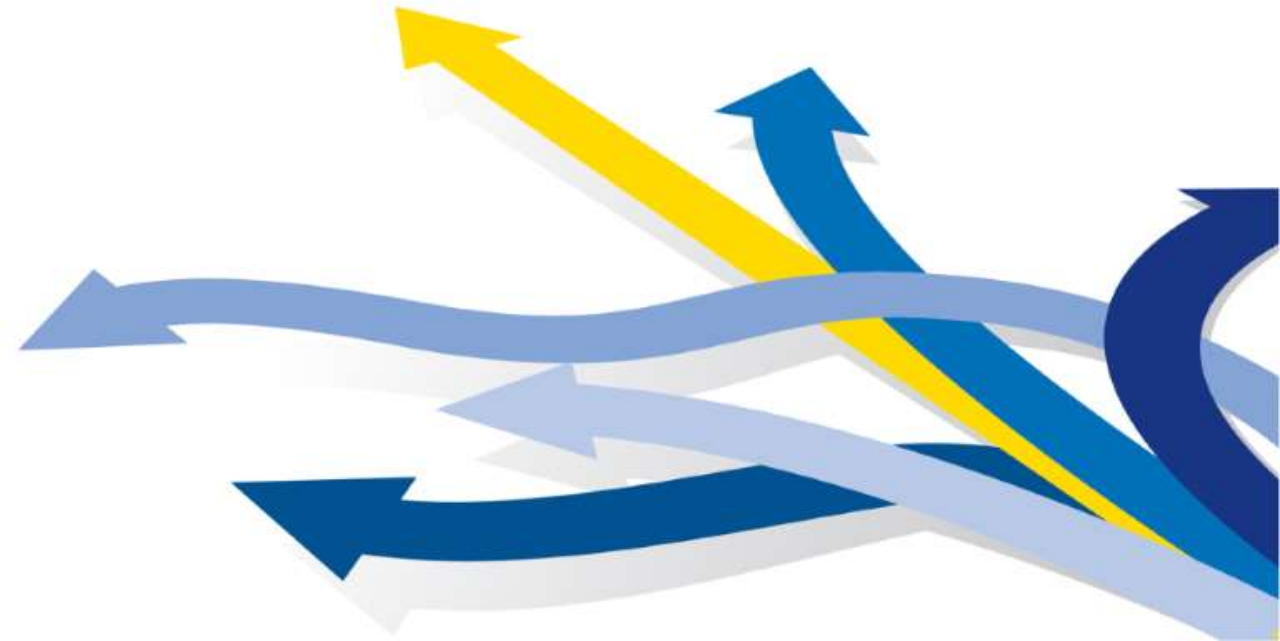


**2024**  
**Annual Conference**

Leading  
International  
Education  
at a Crossroads

# **Title of Session: The Community as a Key Stakeholder in the Internationalisation Project**

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# Session Abstract

For universities to promote inclusive internationalisation they have a responsibility to engage both the global and local community. Internationalisation strategies of universities often neglect local partnerships in favour of international partnerships. This session challenges practitioners of international education to think of community engagement as an integral part of their internationalisation strategies and think of the community as a stakeholder of international education. Community engagement can help universities understand the needs and perspectives of diverse communities thus leading to internationalisation strategies that are comprehensive and inclusive.



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# Discussion Questions

- What role do communities play in international education?
- What is the responsibility of international education towards the community?
- At what point does community engagement and internationalisation converge? Highlighting the interdependent relationship between the two



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Figure 1: Convergence  
between the community  
and Internationalisation  
Strategies to produce  
comprehensive and  
inclusive  
internationalisation



What role can the community play in internationalisation?



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## Internationalisation of Higher Education: A Local Approach

- No 'one size fits all' approach.
- Strategies should be responsive to local contexts.
- Communities should be actively involved in university internationalisation strategies.
- Transition from isolated approaches to community engagement.



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# Importance of Stakeholders

- Highlight the significance of stakeholders in any internationalisation strategy.
- Community stakeholders are more than business partners, they add cultural context to the internationalisation experience.
- Support from university level, local community, government and national organizations.



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What is the responsibility of international education towards the community?



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## Internationalisation and Social Justice

- Requires relentless pursuit of social justice, equity, and inclusivity.
- International education practitioners need collaborative approaches to prevent community isolation.
- Approaches should promote mutually beneficial co-production between universities and communities.



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# Community Impact on Internationalisation

Challenges: Resistance to change, cultural misunderstandings, economic disparities.

Solutions: Transparent communication, community involvement in decision-making, addressing concerns.



At what point does community engagement and internationalisation converge?



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- University Internationalisation Strategies and Community Engagement
  - Convergence between universities and communities fosters mutual relationships.
  - Risks include broken communication links, missed opportunities for shared social norms, and extreme cases of crime and xenophobia.



# Strategies for Engaging the Community

- Community outreach programs
- Cultural exchange events
- Cultural heritage education abroad programs
- Collaboration with local businesses
- Educational initiatives for community members





Therefore, it is important to rethink the role of international education in community engagement and community development

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# Take Away

- Retire the 'one size fits all' model.
- Comprehensive internationalisation is fostered through mutual relationship.
- Take proactive approach to engage university and local communities in internationalisation strategies.
- Find pathways to collaborate and celebrate internationalisation opportunities for current and future generations.



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