Connecting Scotland – how Scottish organisations engage internationally

University of Stirling

Please find attached the University of Stirling submission under the headings below:

1. **What international activities are happening now in your sector and/or organisation? Please describe how and why these activities take place. Are other sectors or organisations involved? What do these activities contribute or achieve?**

   - Attendance at international recruitment events and activities with partner institutions and agencies held across the world to engage with potential students and other influencers, build links/strengthen relations with institutions and grow the global brand of the University;
   - International collaborative partnerships to extend the global reach of the University and provide unique tailored offerings to students in a number of locations across the world;
   - Student and staff mobility initiatives to enhance student experience and global citizenship/employability;
   - Internationalisation activities on campus such as our international festival which encourages integration of our international students with our local student body;
   - Ensuring our academic curriculum includes an international aspect – working with local employers and communities to provide a hands on perspective e.g. internship programme in Stirling Management School;
   - Working collaboratively with other Scottish institutions most specifically in North America and Europe to share best practice and raise awareness of Scottish HE through joint event attendance e.g. NAFSA and EAIE (global study abroad conferences);
   - Work collaboratively with various agencies e.g. Scottish Development International (SDI), Universities Scotland, Universities UK, British Council Scotland, Scottish Government etc. on various international initiatives to ensure that priorities are aligned. Also real value in utilising in country offices/contacts to gather market intelligence and assist with due diligence processes;
   - Engagement in international research networks and joint research projects – For example, researchers in our School of Sport are part of a global network with colleagues from North America, Australasia and Europe carrying out research into Olympic Sport. The Nutrition Group, in the Institute of Aquaculture, are currently major partners in an €8 million pan-European EU Framework Programme 7 initiative entitled “Aquaculture feeds and fish nutrition: paving the way to the development of efficient and tailored sustainable feeds for European farmed fish”

2. **Do you think your sector and/or organisation is effective in participating in international activities? If not, what would help you to**
make improvements? What prevents you from making improvements now?

- Yes but always room for improvements. ‘Connected Scotland’ has helped align the activities of the key stakeholder groups, but it would be good to have a list of planned upcoming visits, inward missions and broader Scotland-wide initiatives/activities so that institutions could plan ahead of time if and how best to engage.
- Would be useful to encourage more university and employer engagement both as an integral part of the degree programme and for internships.

3. What should organisations in Scotland do to be effective internationally? Are you aware of any good examples of this from Scotland or another country?

Collaboration across different industries/sectors to provide a more cohesive approach, improve cross sector communications and develop cross sector forums to share best practice/experiences and encourage greater innovative engagement. SDI have been extremely useful in this regard and have provided excellent on the ground assistance in market with the scoping out of new international opportunities. Assistance with funding has also been provided in some instances.

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