



Transnational Education

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Transnational education was defined as all types of higher education study programmes, or sets of courses of study, or educational services in which learners are located in a country different from where the awarding institution is based. During the roundtable, many points were made about the potential issues surrounding transnational education, as well as the numerous opportunities and benefits it can provide.

It was widely agreed that the values of the Magna Charta, academic freedom, integrity, and university autonomy, should be upheld by all universities within the transnational education agreement. The partner universities need to have the same educational environment, the same ethics, the same rules, and should adhere to the same social norms. This is because difficulties can arise if countries and institutions within the agreement are very different.

One important point that was made by several individuals is that students should be aware of what they are signing up for when they agree to study abroad in a host university. They should understand that the values and education in the host university may be different from their home university. Home universities should also be aware of political positions in the host country; they should not agree to collaborate with countries that do not have freedom of speech or a free press. The institution in the host country may, itself, agree with the values of the Magna Charta, but the country in which the institution is based may not. Therefore, students should be aware of this before they make the personal choice to study there.

Additionally, it was regarded that the host university should uphold sound values regarding social responsibility, high quality of education, and integrity, regardless of the state of politics and/or freedom of speech that country contains. It is crucial that both universities collaborate together to ensure that, regardless of the regime they live in, they will support these common principles. It is part of the social responsibilities of home universities to offer partnerships with other countries in order to aid their educational development because education should not have any borders.

Transnational education has the potential to offer a richer, more diverse education to students. These students have the ability to go abroad to a host university and learn about other cultures. This greatly improves their personal growth, as well as increases cultural awareness in the home university once the student returns. In order to foster this cultural exchange, universities should be very careful to not create a colonial influence in the host country; they should be respectful of any differing culture and beliefs.