

The Association of Colleges

Skills Sector International Activity:

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This presentation

- What we did & who responded
- What respondents do in this field
- Which countries they work with
- Curriculum focus
- Funding & partnerships
- Scale of activity, & likely prospects
- Drivers & constraints
- Issues & reflections

Who responded?

Colleges		74
- In England ⁴	50	
- In Scotland	11	
- In Wales	8	
- In Northern Ireland ⁵	5	
Sector Skills Bodies		14
- SSCs	10	
- Sector Skills Bodies	3	
- National Skills Academy	1	
Work-based learning providers		7
Awarding Organisations ⁶		2
Not Known (ie they did not say)		3
		100

Range of activity

What type(s) of international activity are you engaged in?

Teaching international students in the UK	75.5%	71
Staff exchange	41.5%	39
Student exchange	39.4%	37
Institutional twinning	34.0%	32
Research / Consultancy / Technical assistance – for profit	31.9%	30
Teaching international students outside the UK (i) within educational institutions	27.7%	26
Research / Consultancy / Technical assistance – on a non-profit basis	27.7%	26
Cultural activity, including charitable / philanthropic	19.1%	18
Teaching international students outside the UK (iii) via e-learning	16.0%	15
Teaching international students outside the UK (ii) on employer's premises	13.8%	13
Other (please specify)	23.4%	22

Most important activity

Q5: Which are the three most important international activities for your organisation?

Answer Options	Financially	Overall value	Response Count
Teaching international students in the UK	70	62	73
Research / Consultancy / Technical assistance – for profit	31	20	32
Teaching international students outside the UK (i) within educational institutions	20	16	23
Research / Consultancy / Technical assistance – on a non-profit basis	14	17	22
Teaching international students outside the UK (ii) on employer's premises	12	9	14
Staff exchange	12	27	28
Student exchange	12	24	27
Teaching international students outside the UK (iii) via e-learning	10	6	10
Institutional twinning	10	17	21
Cultural activity, including charitable / philanthropic	7	10	11
Other (please specify)			16

For which countries?

Which are your three most important locations for your organisation's international activity?

India	56.2%	50
EU + European Economic Area + candidate countries	53.9%	48
China	41.6%	37
Pakistan	15.7%	14
Gulf States	15.7%	14
South East Asia	12.4%	11
Other Asia	11.2%	10
Other Middle East	11.2%	10
Japan	10.1%	9
Saudi Arabia	9.0%	8
Nigeria	7.9%	7
Other Africa	7.9%	7
USA	5.6%	5
Russia	5.6%	5
Malaysia	5.6%	5

What curriculum areas?

Q8: What curriculum areas are you working in internationally?		
English language	63%	53
Business / entrepreneurship	56%	47
Creative and media	45%	38
Management	44%	37
Health and care	41%	34
Engineering / manufacturing	39%	33
Hospitality / catering	39%	33
ICT	37%	31
Teaching and related	36%	30
Construction and built environment	24%	20
Land-based	8%	7
Other (please specify)		24
answered question		84
skipped question		16

What level of activity?

What level of activity are you working at internationally?¹

Entry Level	17.9%	15
Level 1 VQ	16.7%	14
Level 2 VQ	32.1%	27
Level 3 VQ	78.6%	66
Level 4 VQ	56.0%	47
HNC / HND / Foundation degree	67.9%	57
Bachelors degree	29.8%	25
Master's degree	9.5%	8

Who do you work with?

What partners do you work with within the UK on international activities?

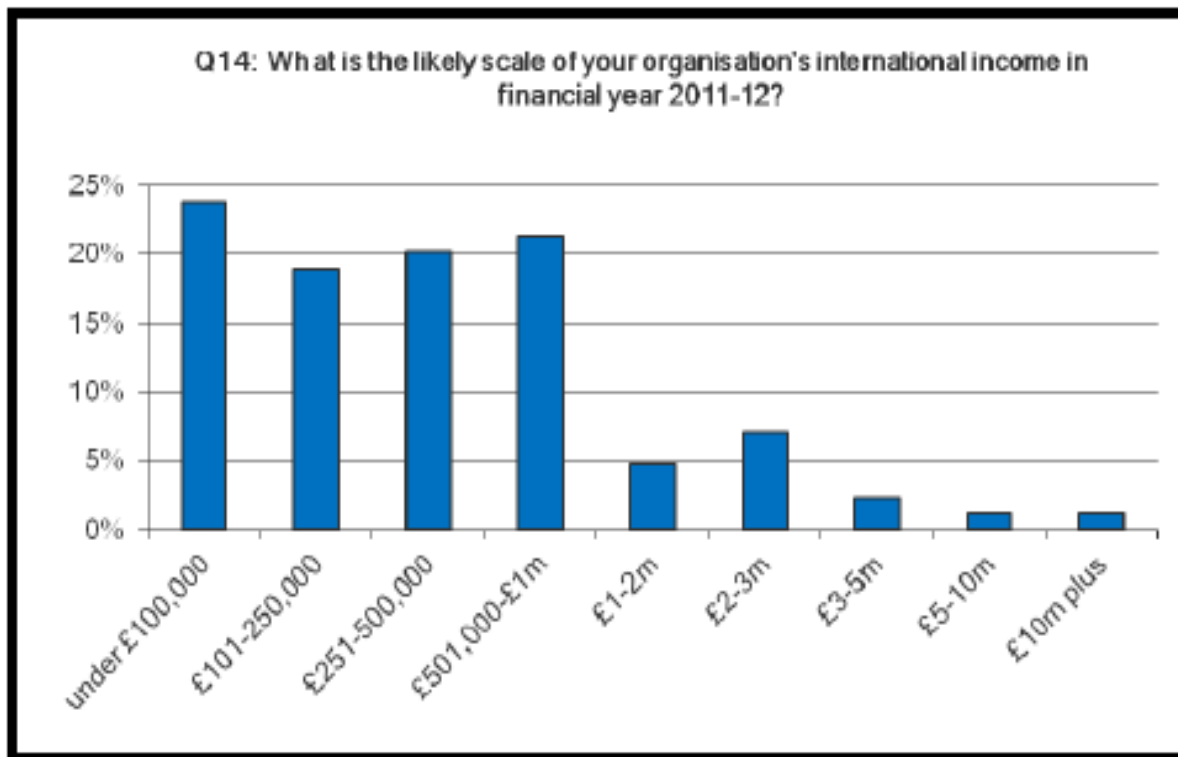
University / HEI	41.7%	35
General FE college	40.5%	34
Awarding Organisation	28.6%	24
Employer	28.6%	24
Government body (including local / regional / devolved government)	27.4%	23
Sector Skills Council / Skills Academy	26.2%	22
Sector Skills Body [ie UKCES-recognised only]	10.7%	9
Trade Association	10.7%	9
Work-based Learning Provider	8.3%	7
Voluntary sector body	8.3%	7
Specialist College	7.1%	6
Sixth Form College	4.8%	4
None of the above: we prefer to work independently	14.3%	12

Sources of funding

Please indicate the main source of funding for the international activities your organisation is engaged in

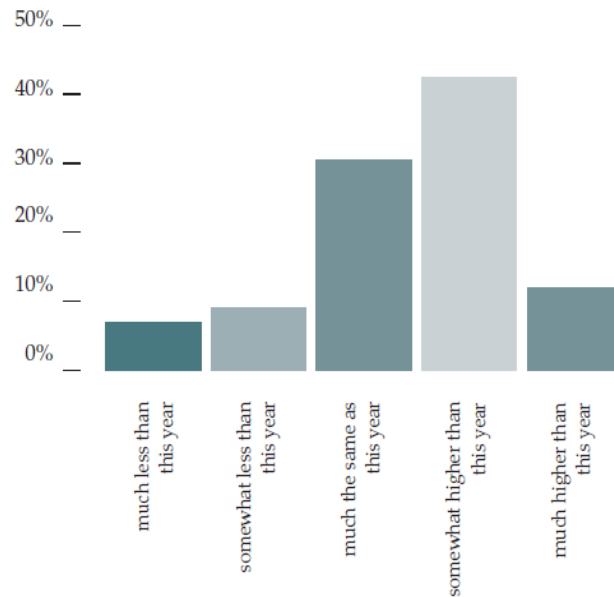
	International student fees	Commercial fees	British Council grants	UK Government grants (incl agencies, and devolved administrations, but not BC)	EU grants	Other international government / agency grants	Organisation's own funds	Other	Response Count
Teaching international students in the UK	63	8	1	2	5	7	3	4	66
Teaching international students outside the UK (i) within educational institutions	13	10	7	1	1	2	5	2	27
Teaching international students outside the UK (ii) on employer's premises	6	9	1	0	0	0	1	0	16
Teaching international students outside the UK (iii) via e-learning	9	4	0	0	0	0	4	1	16
Staff exchange	4	4	18	3	23	6	8	0	38
Student exchange	2	1	11	4	22	1	8	2	33
Institutional twinning	4	4	6	3	8	3	9	2	26
Research / Consultancy / Technical assistance – on a non-profit basis	0	5	12	3	9	7	8	1	24
Research / Consultancy / Technical assistance – for profit	0	14	2	2	6	7	5	3	25
Cultural activity, including charitable / philanthropic	2	2	4	1	4	4	7	2	13

Scale of activity

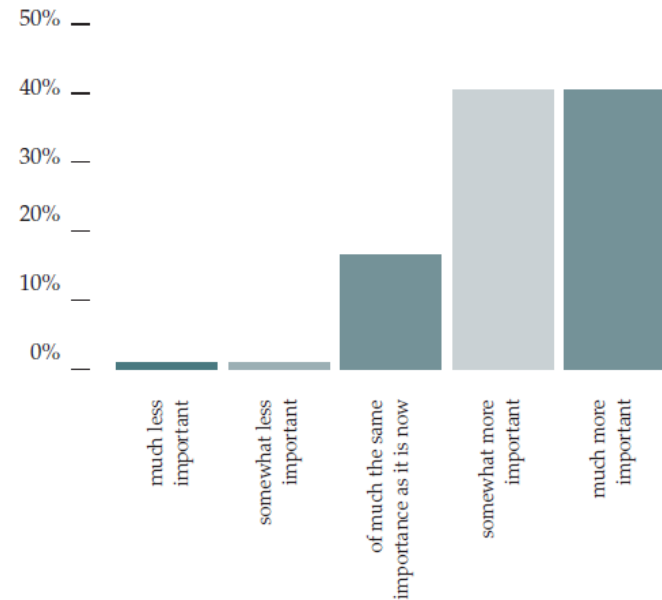


Academic year 2012/13

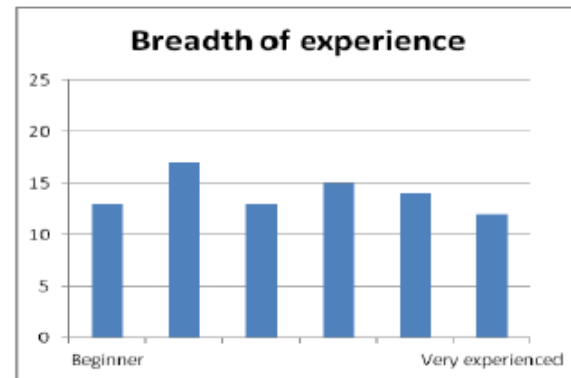
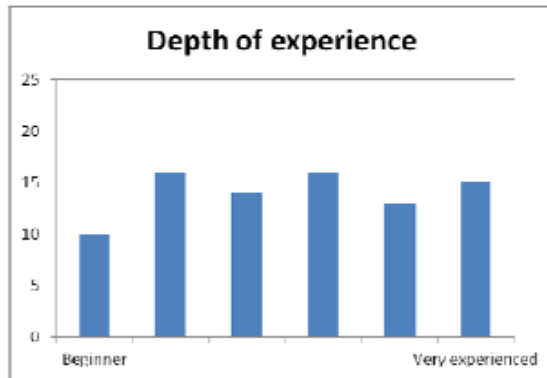
Money



Importance



Your experience: self ratings



Sources of help

In the last year have you used the services of any of the following in relation to your international work?

British Council	85.7%	66
Association of Colleges	62.3%	48
UKTI	40.3%	31
Other Colleges	32.5%	25
TVET UK	27.3%	21
Scotland's Colleges International	13.0%	10
Private consultants	13.0%	10
Colleges Wales / Colegau Cymru	9.1%	7
Alliance of Sector Skills Councils	9.1%	7
Colleges Northern Ireland	5.2%	4
Federation of Awarding Bodies	3.9%	3
Association of Employment and Learning Providers	1.3%	1
Other (please specify)	5	

Why do it?

Why are you engaged in international activity?

to earn a margin / profit from it	83%	69
to enrich the experience of our UK-based learners	76%	63
to raise our profile	75%	62
to enrich the experience of our UK-based staff	68%	56
Government encourages it (includes funding agencies)	30%	25
Other (please specify)	12%	10

What holds you back?

What holds you back from doing more (or any) international activity?

lack of resources (excluding staff)	47%	38
lack of trained / experienced staff	40%	32
lack of knowledge / expertise required	28%	23
not part of our mission / potential diversion from our mission	12%	10
lack of confidence	7%	6
Government discourages it (includes funding agencies)	7%	6
not important enough to us / we expect better returns on other activity	5%	4
Other (please specify)	35%	28

3 Key Issues

- Changes to visa regulations

"If you ask abroad, the message is that the UK is closed"
- Unfair treatment of colleges
- Poor understanding of FE

Case studies

- Bradford College: partnership of equals
- City of Glasgow College: maritime expertise
- CfA: LEONARDO project growing from a study visit
- People 1st: labour market research in Panama
- Lancaster & Morecambe College: international work experience

Reflections

- Which matters more: for profit activity – or not for profit?
- International students: separate – or integrated?
- Staff development: skills shortages, and a variety of needs
- Success builds

Thank you!

You can find an electronic copy of the report at

<http://www.aoc.co.uk/en/policy-and-advice/international/general-information-resource/>

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