



International Education in the International Perspective

Proposal of Martin Glogar

(Office for International Studies, Masaryk University)

Background

I work at the Office for International Studies (OIS) at Masaryk University in Brno. Masaryk University (MU) is a premier comprehensive higher educational institution (HEI) in the Czech Republic, consisting of 9 faculties, well known for its excellence both in academic and research areas. The OIS is a central, yet autonomous body, which coordinates and carries out most of the internationalization activities at the university.

I have been working at the OIS for last five and half years with responsibilities ranging from advising local students interested in going abroad, providing support to teachers with getting and managing regional or EU funding for their international projects, selecting students going on exchange to the overseas partners, supervising bilateral agreements, setting forth international strategies, managing own international projects, putting together programs and courses in English, communicating with various bodies at the university, in the Czech Republic or abroad, and much more.

I enjoy all these responsibilities and I like what I am doing, as the job balances institutional strategic tasks with an interactive work with people for concrete beneficiaries, bringing concrete outputs in very short terms, as well as making institutional changes visible in the long run. In the recent years I have been gaining more responsibilities, and I am perceived as a “local authority” in the field of internationalization: Many members of our academic community consult with me; I receive invitation to speak at conferences, or present at workshops, participate in surveys, collaborate in editing scholar texts, formulate strategies for MU, etc.

I have been feeling that to fully engage in all these activities only on the basis of my general liberal arts education, personal and professional experience, and “common sense”, is insufficient. I strongly feel that in order to maintain professional standards and personal integrity, I need to overcome shortcomings in the theoretical knowledge and accelerate my professional development through further trainings.

American Partners

I have been fortunate to get a commitment of three very strong partners – Institute of International Education (IIE), Teachers College of Columbia University (Teachers College) and the City University of New York (CUNY). Each institution is quite different in their nature, and they should also play different roles in my program:

IIE is a private nonprofit leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. In addition to its programs of study and training, linkages of universities around the globe and promotion of closed educational relations, IIE is also one of the most respected institutions regarding applied research and policy analysis in international education. Being responsible for some scholarship programs administrated jointly by MU and IIE, I have been collaborating with IIE, especially with its European office based in Budapest, since 2006. For the last three years I have been representing MU in their membership program called “IIENetwork”. I believe that a possibility to do an internship at IIE would bring me an insight into the programs they carry out, possibility to participate in their research and offer me a chance of networking with representatives of universities from around the globe.

My main contact at IIE is Tony Claudino, a former employee at MU and current Fulbright Student Program Outreach Director at IIE. Through him I have been offered a possibility to do shadowing at their New York office. I would be able to work in his unit and the ones on Research and Evaluation, and Scholarship & Training Programs.

Teachers College belongs to the top US education school and was the first as such which developed a program in comparative and international studies in education. This program has been offered till now and is widely respected in in the sphere of international education. I would like to enroll into the courses they offer in their program in Comparative International Education, and also investigate what internationalization measures and policies this renowned prestigious private university has implemented. Deputy Prevost, Prof. John Allegrante, is willing to serve as the institutional contact for my studies at the College and would assist to guide my program of study while at Teachers College and Columbia University.

CUNY is a large urban public university and through Dr. Richard Mitten I obtained an invitation to do an internship in the Study Abroad Office at Baruch College. Dr. Mitten is willing to let me not just shadow the work of his office, but he would also like me to engage in some of their projects. In addition, the Office of Global Education Initiatives at Queens College would be willing to welcome me, and I would also have a chance to discuss some of the areas of my interest with Joy Phaphouvaninh, CUNY International Education Coordinator who would provide me with the view of the “system headquarters.”

Objectives

The overall program objective is to gain knowledge and practical experience that would enable me to improve performance of OIS and MU in their internationalization efforts. To do so I would like to set forth the following general goals:

- Familiarize with the theoretical and practical concepts of international education.
- Map out the recent trends of internationalization of higher education.
- Learn about research methods in international education.
- Receive training in management, leadership and higher education administration, with special focus on international education.
- Understand an American approach towards international education and compare it with the European model.
- Meet our current North American partners and see into enhancing the existing cooperation, and also explore the possibility to enlarge their network.

Detailed Description

In order to accomplish these goals I would like to use the expertise of all three American Partners named above, and two main methods – Executive training seminar and Internship, but not exclusively: I am also planning to visit some of MU partner institutions and attend NAFSA annual conference, and invest into networking.

Executive training. I would like to enroll as a non-matriculated student in up to three courses in or related to higher education at Teachers College. In addition, I would be able to participate in any College-wide activities and events that are open to students and that might advance my interests in international education for purposes of my study program. My preferred courses are: Education and Strategic planning (ITSF 4054), Issues and Institutions in international educational development (ITSF 4090), Qualitative Research and Evaluation in International Education (ITSF 4092), and Strategic Planning and Organizational Change in International and National Educational Setting (ITSF 4096).

Internships. The internships would be facilitated primarily through IIE, and various parts of CUNY, but I will obviously observe the practices of the Teachers College. As for the concrete objectives of the internships, I would like to get a more complex view on the issues I am responsible for. That would include exploring what the latest trends are in terms of:

- Setting up strategic partnerships
- Creating internationalization strategies
- Internationalization at home
- Running exchange mobility programs
- Programs for the incoming international students
- Promotion and selection of the local students for study abroad stays
- Designing, running and evaluating short-term study abroad programs
- Academic and research cooperation with Europe and other continents
- Joint programs, especially dual degree programs.

In addition I would also like to learn things which necessarily do not correspond with my direct responsibilities. These would include:

- Exploring Management principles used at international, study abroad offices
- Internationalization of the US HEIs, impact of the Bologna process (if any) on US and North America in general
- Understanding US educational system as whole, accumulation of credits, legal and cultural framework for the US educational system.

Both Tony Claudino from IIE and Dr. Mitten from Baruch College have confirmed that they would at their own and other units at their institutions offer assistance in reaching my goals. IIE – representing a complex global institution – would provide me more with the theoretical, research and policy measures, whereas CUNY through words of Dr. Mitten would do so “less in the form of a systematic presentation of materials than a demonstration of the administration of study abroad as practiced at Baruch with some ancillary discussion of what theories inform the policies and practices [they have]”.

Through a project JOIMAN and its successor Joi.Con I have been a member of the European panel exploring administrative and managerial issues connected with joint programs, and through a project Corinthiam I have engaged in researching and sharing experience in internationalization of HEIs (Bologna process) and their impact at the universities in Israel and Palestine.

The North American view on both issues – joint programs and standardization of higher education – differs significantly from the European one, and I believe that familiarizing with the US concepts would be of a great significance for both (and future) projects. My plan is to work closely with the Research and Evaluation Dept. at IIE which conducts many interesting studies in both fields. This cooperation could lead to a published article and/or a presentation at 2013 NAFSA conference.

Networking. I would also like to take the opportunity to meet with our North American partners, such as the University of Toronto, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the University of Arizona and others. I coordinate activities with all of them, select and exchange students going at these institutions, and having had no chance to visit them yet I believe that it would be of a great use to meet the colleagues in person and explore the possibility of enhancing the existing cooperation.

I am not certain if my financial resources would allow me to visit all these partners, but I plan to attend the annual conference of NAFSA where most of them would be present. Unfortunately the NAFSA conferences usually overlap with the summer programs I coordinate and hence I managed to take part only at the conference in Los Angeles in 2009. The conference program would certainly contribute toward the educational goals of my stay in the US, but the opportunity to network with the professionals from all over the globe would be even more important.

Organization and Time Schedule

The proposed overall length of the stay in the US is 5 months, starting in mid-January, shortly before the classes of the Spring term of the Teachers College begin, and ending in mid-June 2013. I would spend the semester as a non-matriculated student at the Teachers College, and do my internships at IIE and CUNY first “part time” alongside the studies, and then full time in May and June. Therefore I would be based in New York for most of

my time, with exception of the trips to visit the partners and to attend the NAFSA conference in St. Luis at the end of May.

Program Cost

Item	Cost in US\$
Executive training tuition (for 6 points – estimated tuition per credit for 2012-2013 is \$1286) and college fee (\$388)	8,104
Internship	0
Administrative fees (visa, registration fees, NAFSA conference registration fee [\$750], etc.)	950
International travel	800
Local transportation (\$104/mo. x 5 + \$600 national airfare)	1,120
Medical insurance	635
Monthly maintenance (\$1805/mo. x 5 – based on Fulbright standards for NY)	9,025
Contingency	500
Total	21,134

The total estimated cost of my program is US\$ 21,134. I am prepared to pay from my own resources US\$ 6,134 and thus I kindly ask the American Fund for Czech and Slovak Leadership Studies to consider granting me US\$ 15,000 to make my proposal viable.

Program Benefit

It is my hope that if my above described plan materializes, OIS and MU would benefit from my program too. OIS is generally perceived as a leading internationalization unit in the Czech Republic. The scope of activities and level of impact on MU is recognized through invitation to many new initiatives. Unfortunately with the changes in the leadership two years ago, OIS lost a director who was successful in the operational and organizational level, and also able to formulate strategies and draw theoretical conclusions. In many initiatives and projects I was assigned to substitute him, but not having the education and experience he had, I am not able to see the full picture as he used to. The training, gained theoretical knowledge and close experience with the American approach towards international education would help me to fulfill the given role more satisfactory.

In addition, the plan to meet and discuss possible enhancement of cooperation with the North American institution would be of use to MU, and to its students in especially. Since I took a position of the international relations officer in October 2006, the outgoing overseas mobility I have been in charge for, have increased by more than 10 times. I believe that the opportunity to network with more US institution could lead to even a larger increase, and the possibility to meet the existing partners could contribute to the qualitative changes.

The pool of professionals in the Czech Republic is relatively small and the level of collaboration among them wins over the rivalry among the institutions they represent. There are semi-regular meetings and workshops for these professionals, facilitated through the local Fulbright Commission or the National Agency for European Programs, which provide a forum to disseminate good practices and experience. My collaboration with both agencies is very close. I am certain that I would be given an opportunity to present the gained knowledge at these events. Similarly, MU is a member of two major European University Networks. I am involved in a few projects there, so any experience I gain could be shared within these circles too.

Risks

The most critical from my perspective is arrangement at OIS during my absence. I have quite broad range of responsibilities and in many of them there is no permanent staff able to alternate me. Either a new person would have to be hired and trained, or I would have to contribute remotely during my participation at the program. I have discussed program proposal with my boss, who fully supports my further trainings, but is concerned about the temporary difficulties during my stay abroad, and we have not come to conclusion yet.