



Norwegian Agency for
International Cooperation
and Quality Enhancement
in Higher Education


November Conference 2019 | Bo Byrkjeland, *Senior Adviser*

The value of internships and educational exchanges

Diku – who are we?



- The Norwegian government's funding agency for development and innovation, international cooperation and digital learning in higher education
- Established in 2018, the result of a merger between three agencies
- Aims to strengthen the quality of Norwegian education
- Allocates over NOK 1.5 billion in funding annually to Norwegian institutions

A light blue speech bubble with a black outline, pointing downwards and to the left.

Diku is for education
what the Research
Council of Norway is
for research.

Diku's funding programs for cooperation with Brazil

- Part of the Norwegian government's "Panorama" strategy (2016-2020)
- INTPART, UTFORSK, InternAbroad, joint calls with CAPES and Erasmus+
- Over NOK 60 million allocated to projects with Brazilian partners since 2015
- Over 50 projects with Brazilian partners supported since 2015
- Projects range from NOK 300 000 to 4.5 million in size



The value of internships for Norway-Brazil collaboration

- The number of students from Norway studying in Brazil has decreased in recent years: From 50-40 to 30-20 students per year.
- A wider use of internships abroad can change this and have a positive impact on Norway-Brazil relations in the short and long term.

What does the research say?



- Since the 1980s, researchers and practitioners have been studying the outcomes and impacts of learning abroad.
- Several large-scale studies in the US and Europe: *The Erasmus Impact Study* (Brandenburg et. al. 2014)
- Potts (2016) provides a good review of what is known about the benefits of learning abroad.

A major multiple-institution alumni survey from 2004 found that...

“[...] study abroad has a significant impact on students in the areas of continued language use, academic attainment measures, intercultural and personal development, and **career choices**. Most importantly, the study illustrates that this impact can be sustained over a period as long as 50 years.”

(Dwyer 2004)

The benefits of internships and educational exchanges



Benefits to different groups:

- **Students**
- Universities
- **Host organizations**
- Society

What's in it for the companies?



- Access to talent
 - Access to up-to-date research
 - New perspectives
 - Additional resources («free labor»)
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- Short *and* longer term benefits – what motivates differs between small startup companies and major established firms

Learning abroad promotes deep learning



Research using data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) has found that learning abroad has a positive impact on learning (Gonyea 2008).

Learning abroad promotes creative thinking

Creative thinking skills are developed through learning abroad, which can support innovative idea generation, high order reasoning and learning processes. Creative thinking is also associated with tolerance to ambiguity (Lee, Therriault & Linderholm 2012).

Learning abroad supports the development of language skills

In terms of language learning, multiple studies confirm the value of learning abroad programs to support the further development of language skills. Programs **of at least a semester in duration** that also allow students to take academic courses in the target language promote significant foreign language gains (Carlson et al. 1990; Engle & Engle 2004; Vande Berg, Connor-Linton & Page 2009; Watson & Wolfel 2015).

Internships abroad can lead to job offers



One-third of European alumni who undertook job placements abroad were offered employment by their host organization (Brandenburg et. al. 2014).

Internships abroad may foster entrepreneurship



Almost 1 in 10 European alumni who undertook job placements abroad started their own company (Brandenburg et. al. 2014).

InternAbroad projects in Brazil



- Small projects (NOK 300 000 per project) that aim to increase the number of students from Norway who do a credit-yielding internship abroad
- 10 projects with Brazilian partners
- Over 50 Norwegian students have done or will do an internship in a company in Brazil
- 7 Norwegian universities sending students to Brazil
- Over 15 Norwegian and Brazilian companies have hosted or will host students

Internships at Kongsberg Maritime





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Muito obrigado!

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