The International Studies in Education Programme: An untapped contribution to internationalisation at the University of Iceland

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Guiding issues

• Ten year anniversary of program
• General sceptism/lack of knowledge within University
• Current research funded by University of Iceland Research Fund
• Framing for further publications.
A little bit about the Icelandic context

Population: 330,000 people (about 10-12% first and second gen. migrant)

National Language is Icelandic

Internationalization of University of Iceland
University of Iceland

- Established 1911
- Registration fee (no tuition)
- 11000- 14000 students
- 1000 employees (faculty and administration staff)
- Equal access
Internationalization

- Focused on international rankings
- Focused on exchange and international students
- Programmatic support for exchange students and graduate programs
- How do we make it work for migrant/refugee students
- Language policy focuses on maintenance of Icelandic as national language
History, rationale and global local perspective

The International Studies Education Programme aimed to empower future “teachers” as active participants in Icelandic and international contexts and in diverse educational settings.

• Implementation in the autumn of 2008 (time of the economic crash)
• A social justice response to demographic change in the country
• Increasing the diversity of students
  Students currently registered (BA 30, MA 10)
  Dropouts (BA 3-5, MA 5)
  Graduations (BA 13, MA 12)
Structure

• 3 year BA/2 year MA program in Education Studies
• Offered alternate years
• Draws on multiple academic traditions
• Pursue other courses at UI to fulfill program requirements
• Complete a 10 ECTS BA project or a 40-60 ECTS MA research project
Programmatic features:

• Inter- and multidisciplinary
• Encourages self-reflection
• Open-ended structure
• Self-directed learning/student centered pedagogies
• Encourages cross-cultural interactions
• Varied assessment tools and processes
Institutional Constraints

- Program “divergent” from University norm
- Impact of financial crisis and understaffing
- Courses in English are not just for exchange students
- Placement within a restructuring within in the SoE
- Interdisciplinary approach challenged flexibility of University to take courses in other departments
- Misunderstanding of teaching


