



UCD's Strategic Partnerships – Challenges and Opportunities

UNICA IRO meeting
8 November 2023

Overview

- UCD Global – teams involved in partnerships
- Types of partnerships
- What makes a strategic partnership?
- Challenges & Opportunities
- Examples
- Supporting partnerships



UCD Global – teams involved in partnerships

Exchanges & Mobility team

- Student experience, including support and funding
- Erasmus+ KA131 exchange agreements
- Advice on previous activity

Global Networks & Projects team

- Network relations & consortia
- KA171 and KA2 management

Global Relations & Partnerships

- All other agreements
- Liaison with UCD legal and GDPR offices
- Managing governance process

Types of Partnerships

- Student exchange – 20% of total
- Networks and Consortia
- Erasmus KA171 and KA2
- Dual and Joint programmes – taught and research
- Research collaboration
- UCD Joint Colleges in China
- UCD Global Centres
 - Asia Pacific – 4 based in KL
 - South Asia – 8 staff based in New Delhi
 - China – 6 based in Beijing
 - Middle East and Africa – 3 based in Dubai, 1 in Lagos
 - North America – 2 based in New York, 2 in Chicago, 1 in Nashville, 1 in Seattle

What makes a strategic partnership?

- Global Partnerships Framework – 2017
- Academic standards and interests are aligned
- Basis of existing successful collaboration
- Feeds into overall institutional strategy, looking for wide breadth and high impact
- Mutual benefits at all levels
- Risk and control also shared
- Funding support
- Awareness of cultural context
- Sustainable
- Need to recognise evolution of partnerships over time

Challenges...

- Perception of risk
- Socio-political situation & world events
- Administrative change – eg GDPR
- Cultural differences
- Academic over-enthusiasm
- No templates – case-by-case process
- Maintaining relationships
- Preparing students (especially UG)
- Communication – time zones, styles, language, lost in translation

... and Opportunities

- UCD's international faculty, staff and student body
- Cultural difference part of daily life
- Key regions are diverse – USA, China, India
- T&L resources – the international classroom
- HR resources – cultural awareness
- Widen participation across all levels of university
- Broaden programme content
- New student opportunities
- Africa Strategy launched recently

Example 1 – UC Davis

- Graduate student mobility
- Global Education for all
- Collaboration on Sustainable Development Goals
- Collaboration on Thematic Research

Example 2 – China

- Global Centre
- 3 Joint Colleges in Beijing, Chang'an, Guanzgou – focus on UCD research priorities
- Student recruitment
- Maintenance of relationships


Example 3 – Africa Strategy

- Launched in May 2023
- 5 key areas
 - Partnerships & Academic Engagement
 - Student Recruitment
 - Student Engagement
 - Alumni Engagement
 - Government & Industry Engagement
- University-wide commitment
- Establishment of the Africa Advisory Group (AAC)



Supporting partnerships

- Staff resources
- Expertise
- Regional knowledge
- Institutional support



Ceisteanna? Questions?

Go raibh maith agaibh!
Thank you!

