INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME:
Shaping Resilient Universities for an Uncertain Future

UNICA IRO Meeting

University of Cyprus

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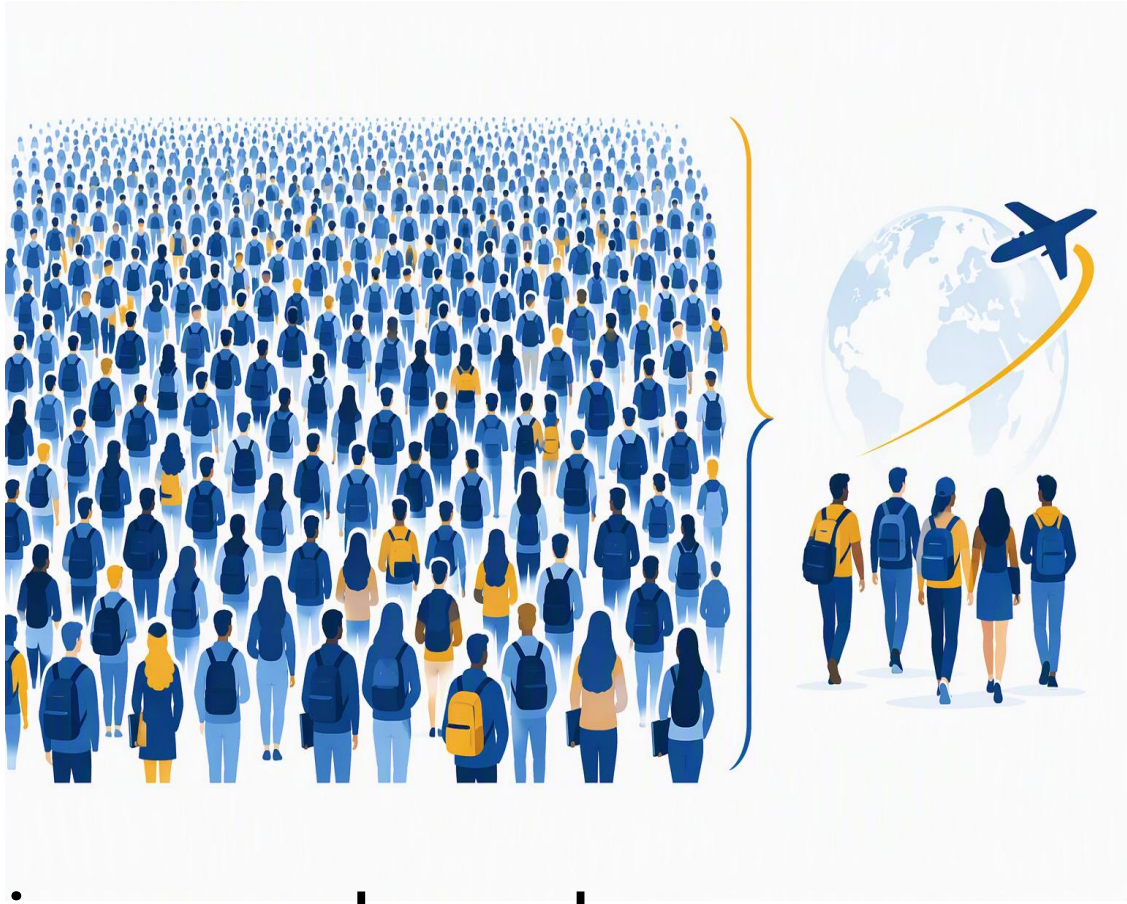


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Can internationalisation rely only on mobility?

- **Only a fraction** of students will ever participate in physical mobility programmes.

- So how do we ensure that **all students** develop global and intercultural competences?



From international experiences abroad…
to international learning for all.

Why does this matter now?

Universities face an uncertain future



- Geopolitical tensions

- Artificial Intelligence

- Financial constraints

- Sustainability challenges

- Diverse student populations



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Universities are operating in an increasingly uncertain environment. This requires resilience, adaptability and global perspectives.

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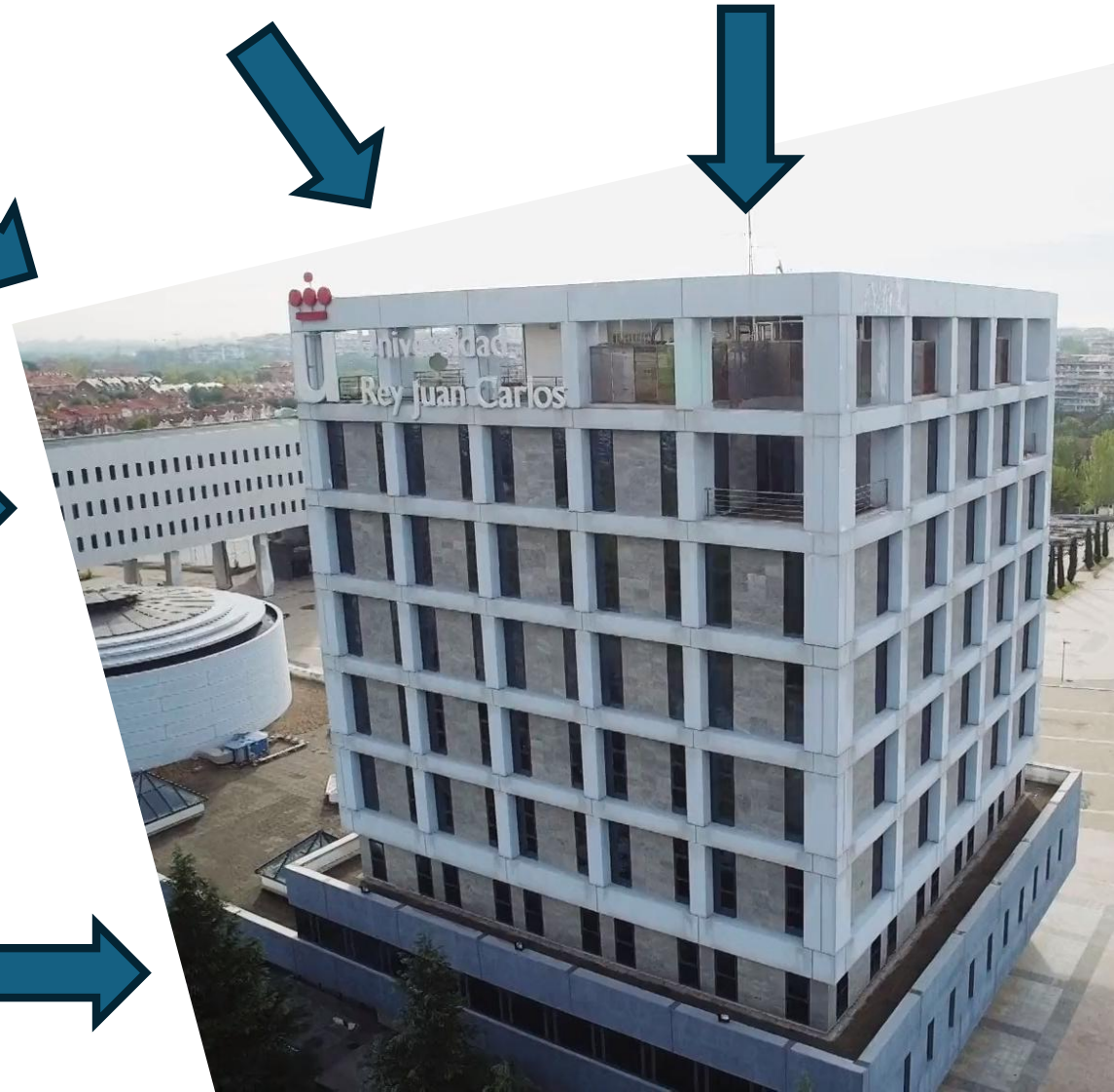
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What is Internationalisation at Home?

- **Bringing the world into the university**
  - Not a substitute for mobility.
  - Not an extra activity.
  - Not just teaching in English.

- It means integrating international and intercultural dimensions into:

  - ✅ Curriculum
  - ✅ Teaching
  - ✅ Campus life
  - ✅ Research
  - ✅ Student experience



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What are Spanish universities doing?

Lessons from the II Forum of Internationalization at Home

organized by the Spanish Rectors Conference crue Universidades Españolas **in Cádiz (June 2026)**

- Dozens of initiatives

- One shared vision



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Main Conclusion:

Internationalisation at Home is becoming a strategic priority across Spanish universities.

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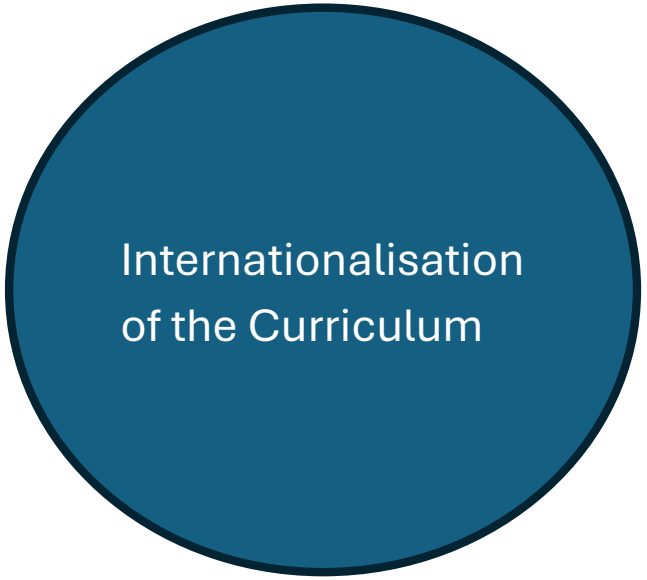
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Emerging trends

Emerging trends

Five major areas of development

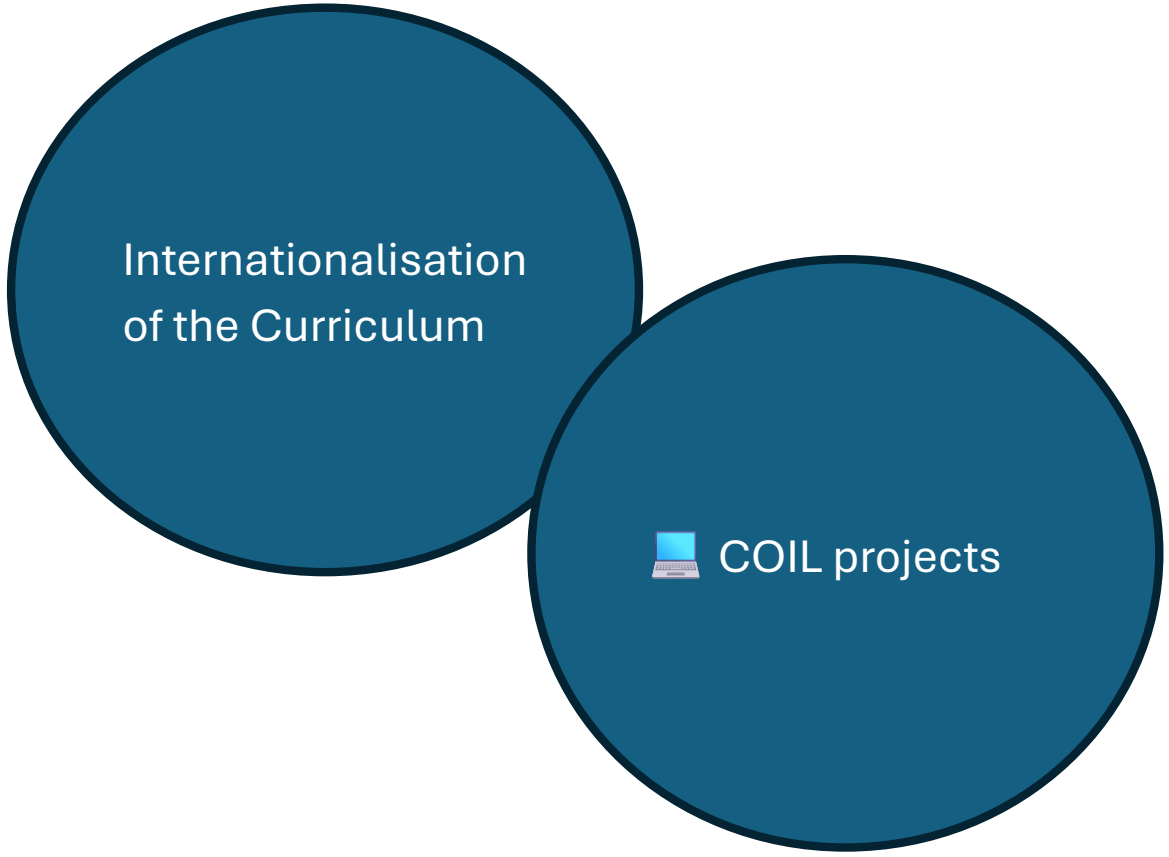
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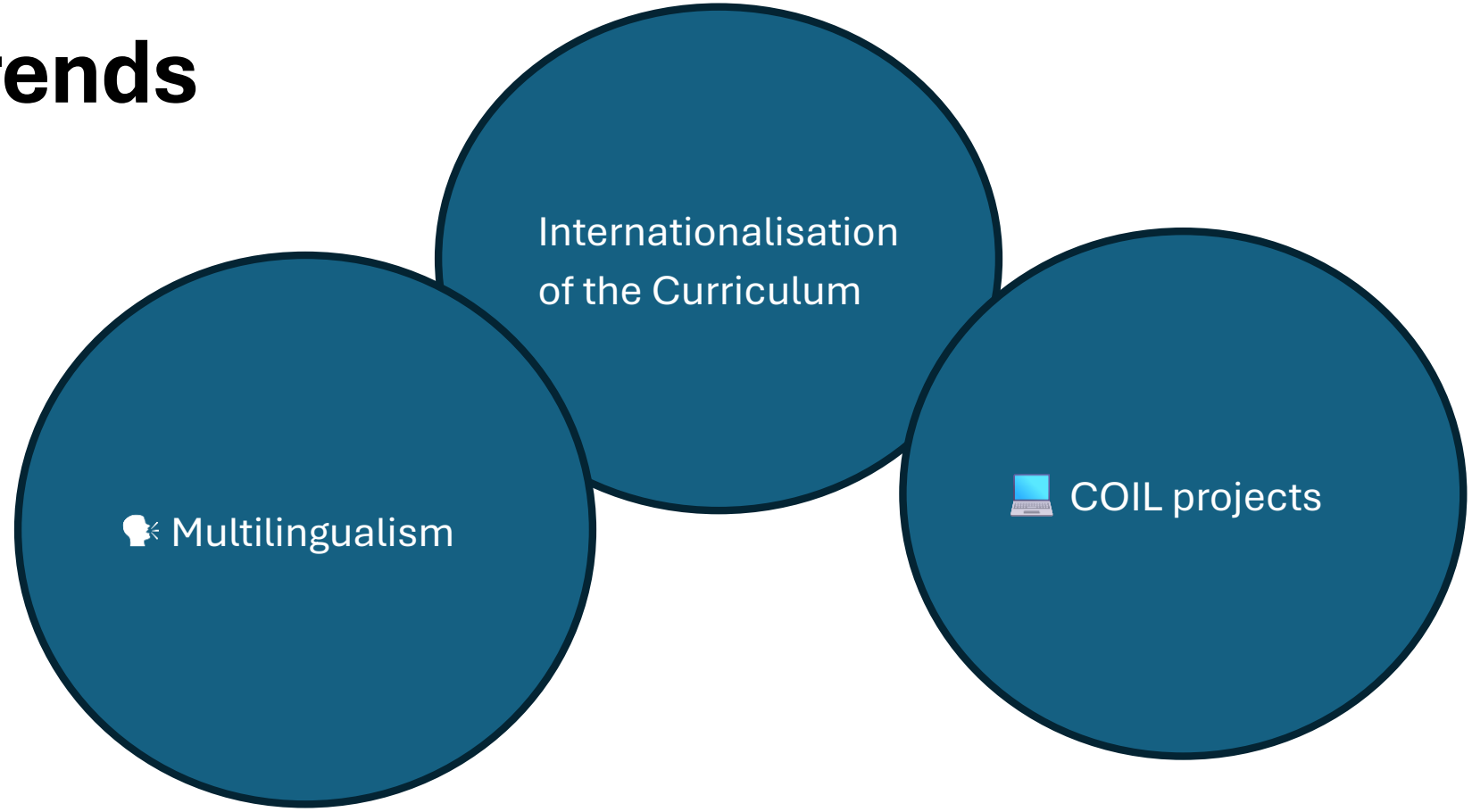
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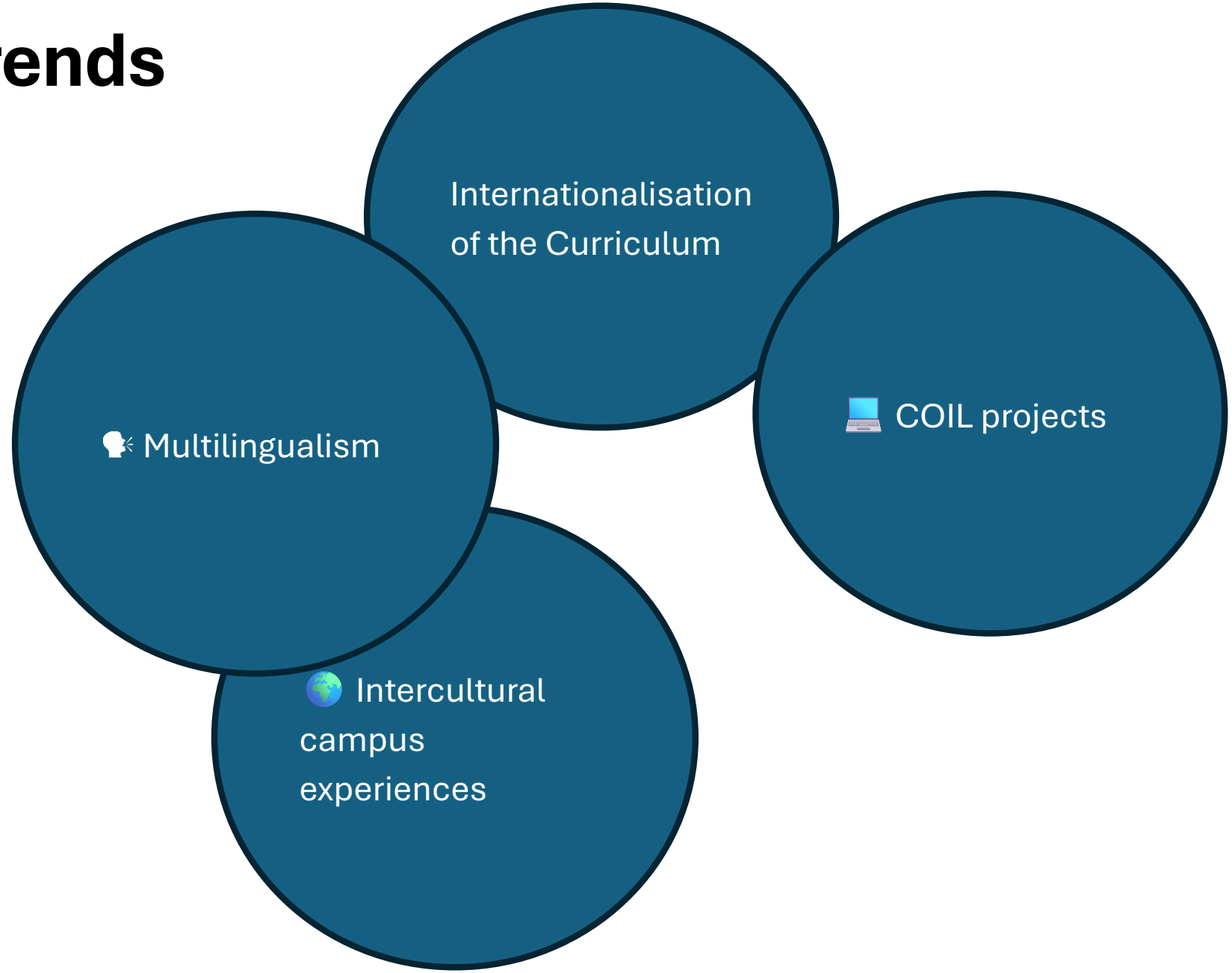
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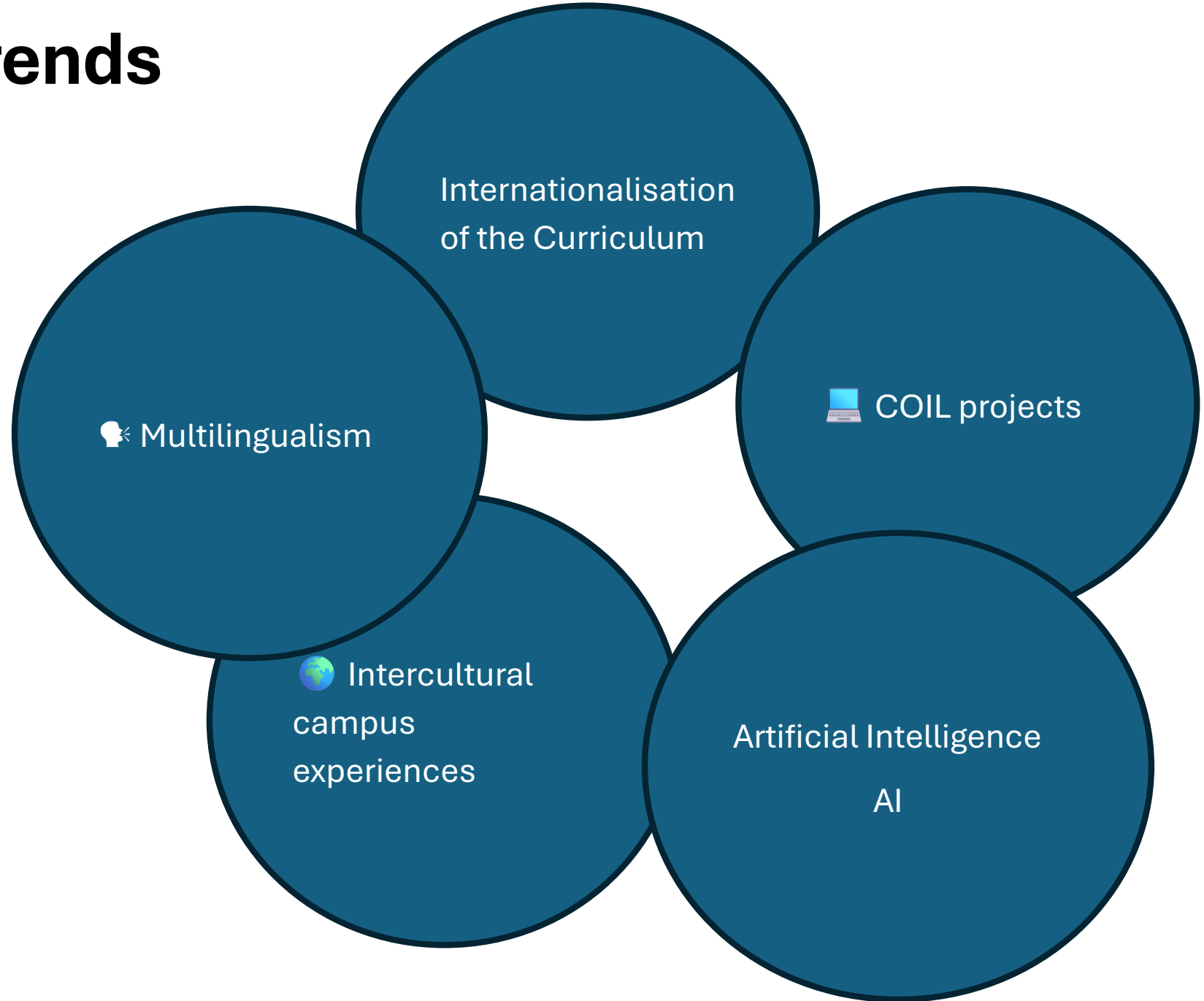
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Emerging trends

Five major areas of development



The classroom is changing

Internationalisation of the Curriculum

- Not only what students learn.
- Also how they learn.
- And with whom they learn.



Internationalisation is no longer outside the classroom.

It happens inside the classroom.

COIL: International without travelling

Collaborative Online International Learning

- Students collaborating across countries.
- Real projects.
- Real intercultural interaction.
- Real global skills.



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COIL democratizes access to international experiences.

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Intercultural campus experiences

- Buddy Programmes.
- Intercultural Activities.
- Integration of international students
- Spaces for interaction between communities



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The presence of international students generates value only when there is meaningful interaction.

Multilingualism

- Teaching in English.
- Language training.
- Multilingualism policies.

**The objective is not only to teach in English,
but to develop the competencies needed to communicate effectively in international environments.**

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AI and Internationalization

AI was identified as a key tool to:

- Enhance international collaboration
- Support multilingual communication
- Enable personalized learning
- Expand access to international and intercultural experiences

***AI* has the potential to make internationalization more inclusive, accessible, and scalable across the institution.**

Why Internationalisation at Home matters

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- **Four strategic benefits**



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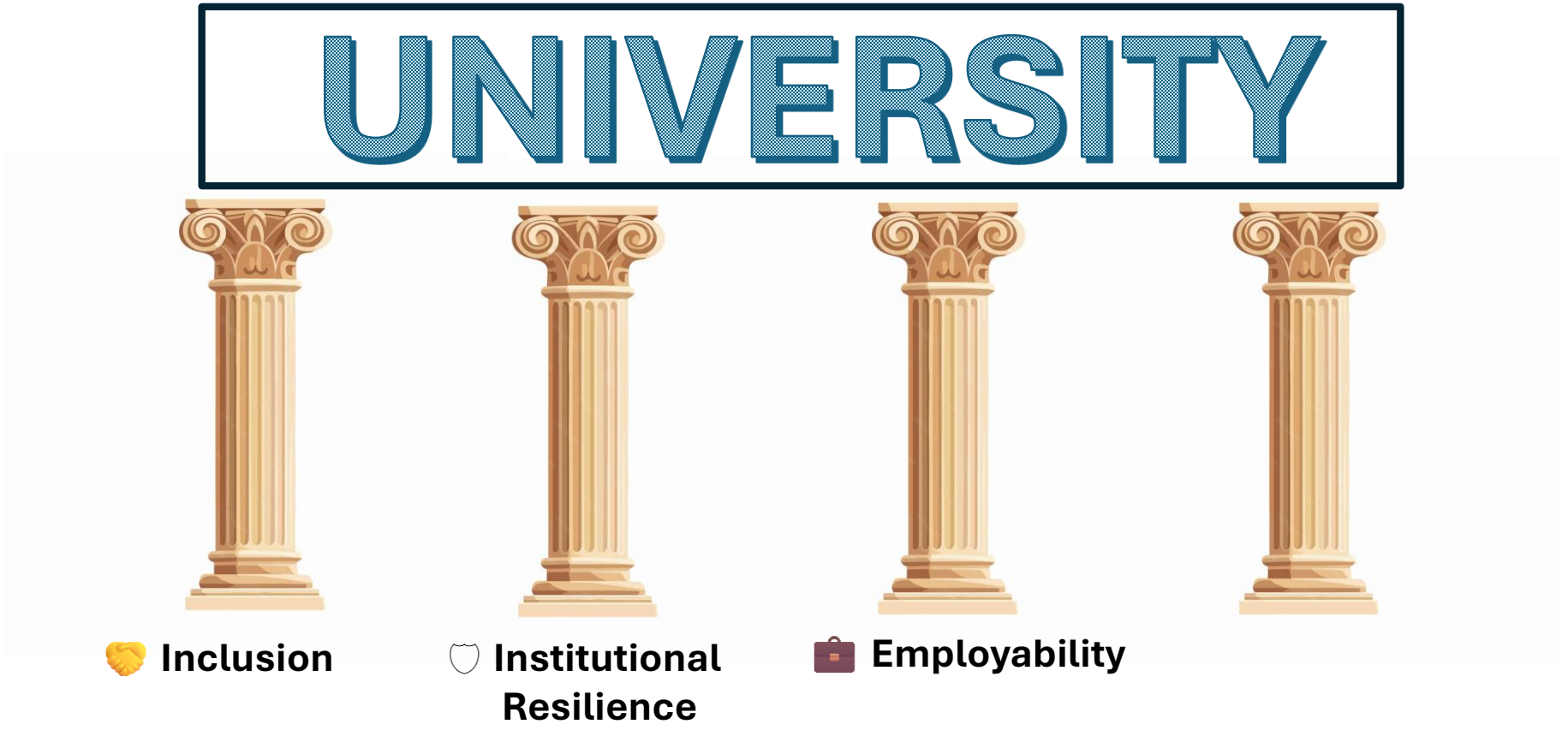
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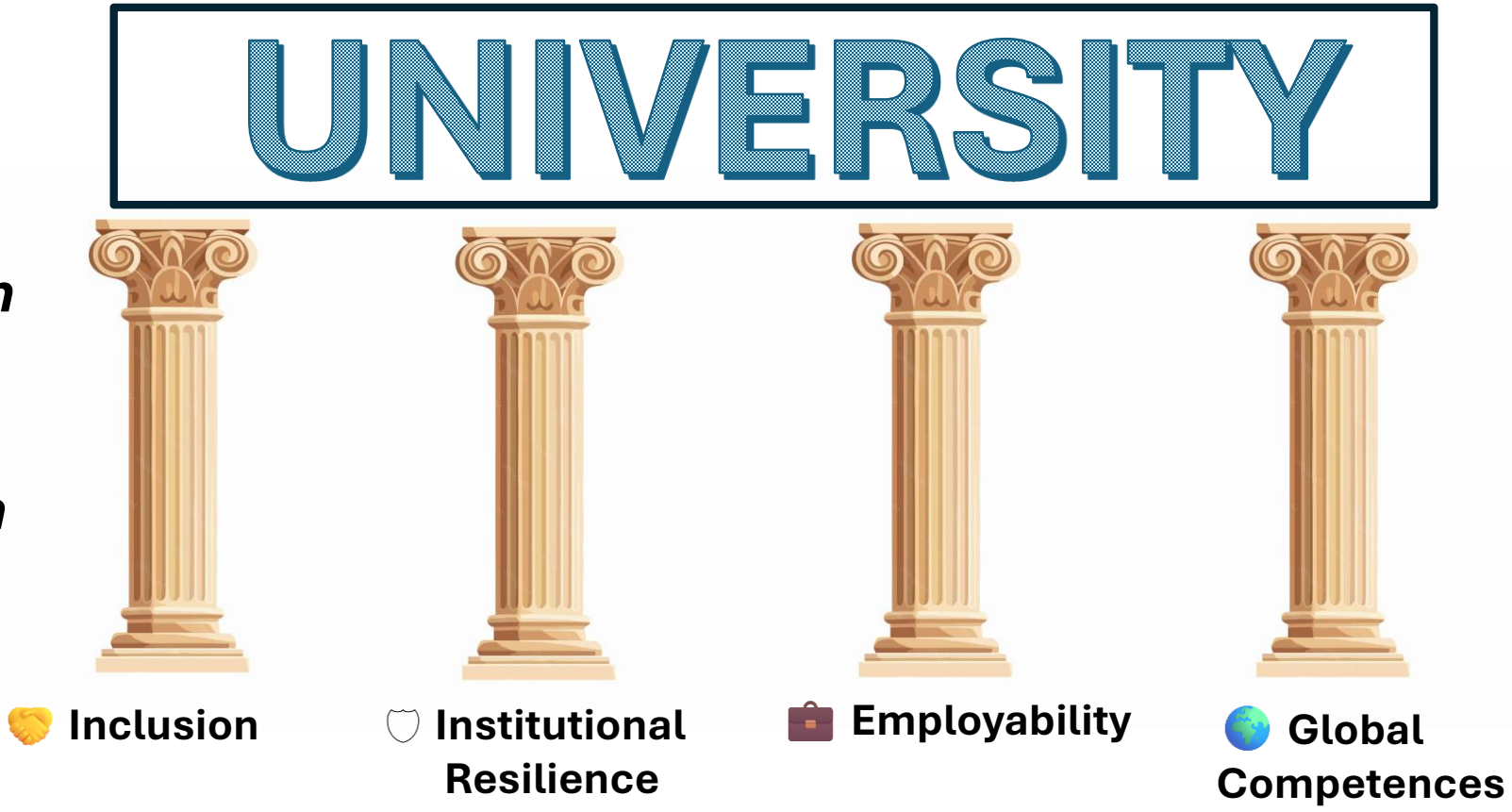
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Why Internationalisation at Home matters

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Internationalization at Home reaches students who may never participate in mobility.



The role of European University Alliances

A new ecosystem for collaboration

- Joint classrooms
- Microcredentials
- Virtual exchanges (and Hybrid)
- Shared learning experiences
- Global partnerships



Looking ahead

The future is hybrid

- Mobility will remain important.
- But internationalisation cannot depend only on mobility.

- **The future combines:**
  - ✈️ Physical mobility
  - 💻 Virtual collaboration
  - 🏛️ Internationalised campuses
  - 🌍 Internationalised curricula



INTERNATIONATIONALISION FOR ALL



Internationalization at Home is not an alternative.
It is the future.

- The most successful universities of the future will not be those sending the highest number of students abroad.

- They will be those ensuring that every student develops international and intercultural competences.

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THANK YOU

Σας ευχαριστώ πολύ

MUCHAS GRACIAS

Pablo T. Salvadores

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