Investigating International Students’ Transitions using a Scoping Methodology

Sidonie Ecochard
Edinburgh Napier University
Content

• Nature of the project
• What is scoping & why scope
• Data collection & analysis
• Preliminary findings & expected outcomes
Context of Study
Research focus: international students
International Students: Specific Challenges

- Social
- Academic
- Linguistic
Number and types of support have developed quickly for international students.

- Map the support practices for international students?
- Identify gaps and duplications?
- Address international students’ specific challenges?

Ryan (2012)
What is Scoping?

Levac et al (2010)

“process of summarizing a range of evidence in order to convey the breadth and depth of a field”

Davis et al (2009)

“gathers and examines information in order to establish strengths and weaknesses, and to guide future decision-making”
Data Collection

Step 1: Defining Scope

Step 2: Finding Partners

Step 3: Standardizing Collection

Step 4: Dealing with Obstacles
Data Analysis

- Applying inclusion - exclusion criteria
- Colour coding
- Mapping
- Thematic Analysis
Preliminary Findings

• Multiplicity and diversity of activities to support international students

• Information and ease of communication

• Gaps and duplications at the institutional level
Time for Delivery of Provision

- Academic induction
- Academic skills development
- Social and cultural induction
- Other social or cultural activity
- Language support
- Administrative/ Settling in
- Careers
- Health
- Activity targeting International Students only
- Activity targeting TNE Students only
Students Targeted by the Activities

Pre-Transition | Entry | Post-Transition
--- | --- | ---
SACI | | 
SoC | | 
SEBE | | 
SLSSS – no data available | | 
SNMSC | | 
BS | | 
IS | | 
SAS | |
## Type of Support Available

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Hub for Effective Students’ Transition and Engagement

Support Initiatives:
Support areas
Various initiatives across University

Schools:
School Offices
Academics’ research efforts

Student Engagement:
ENSA
SPARKS

Internationalisation:
International Operations
Agents for students’ recruitment

UK Higher Education Agencies:
QAA (Scotland)
Strands of work

- Researching international students’ engagement
- Developing an inclusive community of learners
- Staff development workshops
- Publications
Conclusion

Arksey and O’Malley (2005)

“Scoping allows for comparisons across intervention types, identification of gaps, and consideration of potential ‘new frontiers’ ”


Foster, M. 2014. Student destination choices: Brazilian students’ attitudes to study in the UK. *Journal of Research in International Education* 13(2), pp. 149-162.


