QAA Scotland

Lightening Talk

Student Mobility and Employment

Professor Brad MacKay, Vice-Principal (International Strategy and External Relations)
✓ A little about St Andrews;
✓ A little about my role;
✓ The link between student mobility and employability;
✓ The challenges of an ‘ancient’ institution.
About St Andrews

- Founded in 1413;
- 9,000 students;
- 2,800 staff;
- 140 countries represented;
- 19 Schools
- 4 Faculties (Arts & Humanities, Science, Divinity and Medicine

www.st-andrews.ac.uk
In the league tables...

Equally committed to excellence in Learning & Teaching and Research

In multiple UK rankings number 3 in the UK and number 1 in Scotland

In most of the last 10 years (including last 2) Top of UK NSS

Figure source: http://wonkhe.com/blogs/tef-results-how-do-ref-and-tef-results-compare/
The VP International Strategy and External Relations

- Relationships National and International;
- Admissions;
- Careers;
- Communications
- Development;
- International Education;
- St Andrews Global
How Scotland Compares ....

- Germany - 25% have a mobile experience. Target of 50%.
- United States - 15% have a mobile experience. Target of 20%.
- Australia - 19% have a mobile experience.
- UK - 7% have a mobile experience. There is 13%
- Scotland - 10% have a mobile experience.
Advantages to student mobility ...

- 9% more likely to get a first or a 2:1 degree;
- 24% less likely to be unemployed;
- 9% more likely to be in a ‘graduate’ job six months after graduation;
- 5% higher wage earners six months after graduation

Graduate jobs: 49% of recent graduates were working in non-graduate roles - UK Education Select Committee.
Disadvantaged students benefit more ...

- 6.1% higher wage earners six months after graduation;
- 41% less likely to be unemployed.
- But, less likely to take advantage of study abroad opportunity, but it is a key to closing the attainment gap with graduate outcomes.
CBI/Pearson Survey

- 39% of business dissatisfied with intercultural awareness;
- 47% were dissatisfied with language skills;
- 70% of SMEs believe that future executives will need language skills and international experience.
Erasmus Impact Survey

Employment and Career Development

92% of employers are looking for transversal skills such as curiosity, problem-solving skills, tolerance and confidence when recruiting.

64% of employers think international experience is important for recruitment (37% in 2006).

64% of employers say graduates with an international background are given greater professional responsibility.

Erasmus increases these skills!
Student Mobility at St Andrews

- In 2016-2017, 14.1% UK domiciled St Andrews students participated in placements for credit;
- In 2018-2019, the top destinations for our outbound students were France, the US, Morocco, Canada, China, Spain and Russia;
- Just under 50% of students who had studied abroad as an optional part of their degree programme achieved a First.
Barriers to mobility:

- Financial;
- Fear of isolation;
- Interruption of friendships;
- Lack of promotion of opportunities to study abroad;
- Awareness of the benefits of studying abroad.