

INTERNATIONALIZING THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION: AN ACTION PLAN

VISION AND VALUES

The Faculty of Education's Internationalization Action Plan is designed to provide a foundation upon which decisions about internationalization, broadly defined, can be made in a transparent and justifiable manner. This approach is consistent with the five pillars of the University of Manitoba's International Strategy, *Manitoba's Gateway to the World* (2014). Those pillars are:

- a) Academic enhancement, intercultural understanding and research excellence;
- b) Exceptional student experience/enhanced student learning/sustainability;
- c) Indigenous achievement/engagement with global Indigenous communities;
- d) Outstanding employer, outstanding work environment; and
- e) Internationally engaged university/community and Alumni engagement.

The Faculty of Education's Internationalization Action Plan also supports the Association of Canadian Deans of Education (ACDE) *Accord on Internationalization in Education* (2013, p. 2) which describes the following interrelated areas of educational practice:

- a) Experiences of international mobility;
- b) International teaching partnerships;
- c) International research partnerships;
- d) The internationalization of Canadian curriculum; and
- e) The preparation of educators and leaders for schools, post-secondary systems, and other locations of practice.

The Government of Manitoba has also considered the effects of internationalization through *The International Education Act* (Bill 44), which creates a code of practice and conduct for all agencies in Manitoba working in the field of international education. The goal of this Act is to create a "safe, multicultural, multilingual, student-centered learning environment for international students that delivers a high quality education and training experience" (p. 1).

These three documents inform the Faculty of Education's Internationalization Action Plan which reflects our commitment to inclusion, respect, and social and epistemological justice. Moreover, the Faculty of Education also aspires to understand and be responsible to our diverse local context and our increasingly interconnected and international community. We seek to address linguistic and sociocultural inequalities and institutional differences, and thereby reduce barriers in our roles as leaders, public servants, and collaborators. To do so, the Faculty seeks to recognize that internationalization creates new knowledges and spaces for new understandings, as well as demonstrating respect and honour for minority, subjugated, and global Indigenous ways of knowing.

The Faculty of Education seeks to internationalize its programs through the development of curricular change, innovation, practice, and interaction to include global and international perspectives, the enhancement of student, faculty, and staff expertise on international topics, and the growth of opportunities for international travel, study, and research.

In our goal to fully realize our vision for internationalization, the Faculty of Education must:

- Consider the impact of our initiatives on other nations and peoples, while committing to pedagogically and financially sustainable international activities that are reciprocal in nature and are based on shared vision and values;
- Support faculty, students, and staff, and others who have international experience and backgrounds situated in our local context;
- Enhance our abilities to infuse global perspectives into our courses and programs;
- Seek out new funding sources for international programming both on campus and in international contexts;
- Further diversify the composition of our faculty, students, and staff;
- Develop opportunities for students and faculty to travel abroad for the purposes of study, research, and linguistic/cultural awareness, through course offerings, internships, employment and volunteer opportunities, and cooperative research ventures;
- Explore possible resources and examine ways to improve the quality of support available to faculty, staff, and students in pursuing international work; and
- Support future revisions to tenure and promotion guidelines that acknowledge the time, effort and energy that are required to engage in respectful and reciprocal international work both at home and abroad.

References

Association of Canadian Deans of Education (ACDE). (2013). *Accord on the internationalization of education*. Vancouver, B.C: ACDE.

Government of Manitoba (2013). *Bill 44: The international education act*. Winnipeg, MB: Government of Manitoba.

The University of Manitoba (2014). University of Manitoba International Strategy, *Manitoba's Gateway to the World*. Retrieved from:
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