

Minutes of the High Level Group Meeting on International Education

Academy Plaza Hotel, 2.00pm

Thursday 29th November, 2018

Refer to Annex 1 for list of Attendees.

Refer to Annex 2 for list of Subgroups

1. Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed the members of the group and each member introduced themselves and their respective organisation.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting for approval

The Chairperson proposed to give the members a week to examine the minutes. Members to get back to DES with any changes by cob 7th December, otherwise they will be taken as read.

3. Review of Progress on Strategic Actions – Updates from Chairpersons of HLG Subgroups

Subgroup 1 – A Supportive National Framework – V. Landers, DES

V. Landers thanked the group for the work they have done in this subgroup. DES confirmed that work has been done at Department and Agency level. DES will continue to align the International Education Strategy with other Government Strategies. Work is progressing on the IEM legislation.

A cost benefit analysis of International Education is planned for 2019 and will feed into the planned review of the International Education Strategy.

Once data analysis has been undertaken, a review of the effects and outcomes of the Visa stay back program will take place.

SG 2: Internationally oriented, globally competitive institutions – Gemma Irvine, HEA

V. Landers has been provided the updated for subgroup 2.

Substantive progress made towards the goals set for Sub Group 2. Systems performance framework process with individual HEIs is progressing. An agreed measurement to assess the numbers of International Students is still being worked on to ensure that we can report against the targets set in the strategy. Results are due in Mid-December for Academic Mobility Fund call for proposals.

GOI scholarship conditions have been finalised. 60 scholarships are available. HEA using online application system. Closing date will be end of March 2019. A review of the scholarship programme to take place in 2019.

SG 3: Subgroup 3: Sustainable growth in the high-quality English Language Sector – Pdraig Hourigan, MEI

The Chair of Sub-Group 3 informed the group that they have met twice since the last HLG. He discussed the targets outlined for ELT Sector and informed the groups that a new embassy has opened in Columbia which will be a high potential market for the ELT sector. Currently the UK has 4,000 students from Columbia, whereas Ireland has around 100 students.

In relation to branding for the ELT sector, P. Hourigan thanked the members of the group for their input and informed that the new branding will be ready for circulation once the IEM has been introduced.

SG 4: Subgroup 4: Succeeding Abroad - Vincent Landers, DES

Vincent Landers gave an update on the Strategic Actions under Sub-Group 4. Canada, Indonesia and Japan have been visited or will be visited by the Department as new high potential markets. DES informed the group that core markets have also been serviced throughout the year.

EI informed the group on updates and developments in international markets and stated that there has been significant growth in Africa, India, China and Middle East. More increased activity in Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Mexico has also been supported. Support on this activity has been provided by DFAT and DES.

DFA stated that the Ireland Alumni events were successful. Asia Specific Strategy is near completion. Americas Strategy has been broken into two different strategies: USA/Canada Strategy and Latin America/Caribbean Strategy.

DES provided updates on Brexit, confirming negotiations are progressing. Confirmed that the Common Travel Area is an important aspect for DES.

EI informed the group on the Education in Ireland brand which supports the work of promotion of HEIs in market and positive feedback has been received. They plan to increase activity next year.

UL thanked EI team for help coordinating Mexico visit.

IEM Update

QQI informed the group that the Bill is to go to the Seanad Committee Stage on Wednesday 5th December. QQI informed the members that there are two working groups on the Code of Practice; one for HE and one for ELT. QQI discussed the ELT sub group; 140 institutions involved and work being done to streamline process. QQI stated that they are looking at regulating courses under the codes of practice.

Insurance Issue Update

A discussion took place in relation to the Health Insurance Issue for International Students. DES agreed to call a meeting with D/Health and the D/Justice and inform the group on progress through the Sub-Group process,

4. AOB

IUA queried when the next international strategy will be developed. DES stated that in 2019 a review of the current strategy will be started. IUA stated that greater emphasis is needed on outward mobility in the next strategy and more connections are needed to other strategies such as Languages Connect.

Action Point: DES – Cost Benefit Analysis of the Irish Educated Globally Connected 2016-2020 strategy.

QQI state they are holding an Asia Europe Transnational Conference in the coming weeks and will email details to group members.

ANNEX 1:
ATTENDANCE LIST

Representing

Name

Departments and agencies

Department of Education and Skills

Alan Wall (Chair)
Vincent Landers
Alan O'Callaghan
Anne Holland
Matthew O'Reilly-Kavanagh
Meadhbh Devilly

Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade

Anne-Marie Flynn

Department of Justice and Equality

James Kelly
Michael Rooney

Enterprise Ireland

Giles O'Neill

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

Bryan Maguire
Sue Hackett

Representative groups/institutions

Technological Higher Education Association

Miriam Ryan

Irish Council for International Students

Sheila Power

Irish Universities Association

Lewis Purser

Marketing English in Ireland

David O'Grady
Padraig Hourigan

Science Foundation Ireland

Michael Ryan

The Higher Education Colleges Association

Hugh Hughes

Conference of Heads of Irish
Colleges of Education (C.H.o.I.C.E.)

Holly Cowman

Assoc. of Study Abroad Providers in Ireland
Dublin Institute of Technology

Claire McGowan

Robert Flood

Apologies`

Department of Justice and Equality

Cillian Delaney

Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Maria Melia

Higher Education Authority

Dr. Gemma Irvine

Gerry O'Sullivan

Union of Students in Ireland (USI)

Aisling Cusack

Technological Higher Education Association

Dr. Joseph Ryan

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Philip Curtis

Irish Universities Association

Sinead Lucy

ANNEX 2

SUBGROUP LIST

SUBGROUP 1: A supportive national framework

MEMBERSHIP:

Department of Education & Skills
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Department of Justice & Equality
Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation
Higher Education Authority
Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Irish Universities Association
Technological Higher Education Association
Science Foundation Ireland
Irish Council for International Students
Union of Students in Ireland

SUBGROUP 2: Internationally oriented, globally competitive institutions

MEMBERSHIP:

Department of Education & Skills
Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation
Higher Education Authority
Irish Universities Association
Technological Higher Education Association
Higher Education Colleges Association
Union of Students in Ireland

SUBGROUP 3: Sustainable growth in the high-quality English language training (ELT) sector

MEMBERSHIP:

Department of Education & Skills
Department of Justice
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
Technological Higher Education Association
Enterprise Ireland
Marketing English in Ireland
Sector Reps

SUBGROUP 4: Succeeding Abroad
MEMBERSHIP: Department of Education & Skills Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Department of Justice Enterprise Ireland Irish Universities Association Technological Higher Education Association Higher Education Colleges Association Conference of Heads of Irish Colleges of Education