

Minutes of the High Level Group Meeting on International Education

Wynns Hotel, 11.00am

Thursday 2nd May, 2019

Refer to Annex 1 for list of Attendees.

Refer to Annex 2 for list of Subgroups

Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed the members of the group.

Minutes of Last Meeting for approval

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated in advance and the chairperson agreed to give the members a week to examine the minutes and get back to DES with any changes by cob 10th June, otherwise it was agreed that the minutes will be taken as read.

Student Health Insurance:

The issue of health insurance for international students and the implications of the result of the court judgment which deemed that international students were classed as ordinarily resident in Ireland after one year was raised by a number of HLG members. The members who raised this issue felt that this judgment would result in a significant cost increase in health insurance policies for said international students. The Department of Education and Skills informed the group that they had received correspondence from the Alliance for Affordable Insurance for International Students and other representative groups on this issue and that the Departments of Education and Skills, Health and Justice and Equality are engaging to look at possible solutions to this issue.

Review of Strategic Actions

Subgroup 1:

- The chair of sub group one thanked all members for their input and stated that all actions have been delivered on as far as possible.
- The chair provided an update on Brexit and the No-Deal planning that is underway across all Government Departments.
- The chair also gave updates on DFAT's North America, Asia Pacific and Latin American/Caribbean strategies, informing that these strategies would be delivered during 2019.
- The chair informed the group that it is intended to conduct an independent review of the current International Education Strategy. This review will be carried out during the first half of 2020 and results will feed into the drafting of the next International Education strategy.

Members of the group suggested that the third level graduate permission scheme should also be looked at as part of the review and this was agreed.

Subgroup 2:

- The chair stated that the work to have the HEI internationalisation plans included in the institutions overall plans and monitored through the strategic dialogue process is ongoing and that it is clear that HEIs are striving to play to their unique strengths while engaging internationally.
- The chair gave a breakdown of the 2017/2018 International student numbers, outlining that we are on target to meet the targets as set out in the strategy.
- The chair updated on the latest application numbers for the GOI Scholarship and Academic mobility schemes, stating that both schemes were oversubscribed, which was welcomed.

Subgroup 3:

- The chair informed the group on the latest ELT international student numbers which all agreed were positive.
- QQI outlined the latest progress with the IEM and mentioned that the Minister had appointed a mediator to look at the terms and conditions of employees in ELT sector.

Subgroup 4:

- The chair updated the group on planned Ministerial and senior official level trade missions and visits that would occur during the rest of the year.
- EI outlined the findings of their review of 2018 which showed an 11% growth in tuition fee income across the sector. EI informed that they have seen significant growth across all markets more particularly with the Americas region up 9% and the Asia Pac region showing increases of 25%.
- EI also informed of a number of workshops they intend to host in the coming months such as a Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya workshop which is planned for June.
- The important work done by DFAT on alumni engagement with three successful pilot events held throughout the year was also acknowledged.

The chair thanked all members for the work undertaken to date and suggested that the next meeting of the High Level Group will take place in or around November 2019.

Annex 1 – Attendance List:**Representing:****Name:**

Department of Education and Skills	Vincent Landers (A/Chair)
	Alan O' Callaghan
	Anne Holland
	Matthew O'Reilly-Kavanagh
	Meadhbh Devilly
Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Anne Marie Flynn
Department of Justice and Equality	Niamh Burton
Enterprise Ireland	Giles O'Neill
Higher Education Authority	Gemma Irvine
Quality and Qualifications Ireland	Bryan Maguire Lilianna O'Reilly
Technological Higher Education Association	Miriam Ryan
Irish Council for International Students	Sheila Power
Irish Universities Association	Sinead Lucey
Conference of Heads of Irish Colleges of Education (C.H.o.I.C.E.)	Holly Cowman
Technological University Dublin	Robert Flood
Higher Education Consultants Assoc	Diarmuid Hegarty
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Philip Curtis
Assoc. of Study Abroad Providers in Ireland (ASAPI)	Karl Dowling

Apologies

Department of Education and Skills	Alan Wall (Chair)
	Wendy Ross
	Padraig Hennigan
Higher Education Authority	Gerry O'Sullivan
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	Maria Melia Colm O'Connor
MEI	Padraig Hourigan
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Padraig Francis
Department of Justice and Equality	Michael Rooney

ANNEX 2

SUBGROUP LIST

SUBGROUP 1: A supportive national framework
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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
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SUBGROUP 2: Internationally oriented, globally competitive institutions
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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
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SUBGROUP 3: Sustainable growth in the high-quality English language training (ELT) sector
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MEMBERSHIP:

Department of Education & Skills Department of Justice and Equality Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Technological Higher Education Association Enterprise Ireland Marketing English in Ireland
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SUBGROUP 4: Succeeding Abroad**MEMBERSHIP:**

Department of Education & Skills

Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade

Department of Justice and Equality

Enterprise Ireland

Irish Universities Association

Technological Higher Education Association

Higher Education Colleges Association

Conference of Heads of Irish Colleges of Education