Internationalising Higher Education: A Pilot Study at Three Russell Group Universities

The internationalisation of Higher Education as a policy response to globalisation is defined by Knight (2004: 11) as ‘…the process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of post-secondary education’. In this talk, I will present some emerging findings from a BAICE-funded comparative multiple case study that is exploring how the internationalisation of Higher Education and specifically of the curriculum, is understood and pursued at three Russell Group universities. I draw on documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews with PVCs and Directors International and lecturers working within the discipline of Education. Preliminary findings indicate that the internationalisation strategies are seen as a way to increase the universities’ status, image and reputation through a market-driven approach. The content of the strategies is vague and open to interpretation, which has both advantages and disadvantages, and further initiatives are needed at the micro level to support staff to internationalise curricula and pedagogy.