

Internationalisation and Role of Career Counsellors: Linking Theory, Research, and Practice

Dr Gulnaz Zahid

*Head of the Department of Behavioural Sciences, School of Social
Sciences & Humanities, National University of Sciences & Technology*

PhD Psychology (Quaid-e-Azam University, Pakistan)

Postdoc Career Guidance (iCeGs, University of Derby, UK)

gulnazzahid@hotmail.com

gulnaz.Zahid@s3h.nust.edu.pk

Research Experience

- Six months postdoc research experience with the University of Derby (2017).
- The focus was cross-cultural comparison of internationalisation of higher education (IoH) through exploring it's embeddedness in the undergraduate curriculum.

Reasons for Pursuing Postdoc

- This mobility for knowledge and research in career guidance was desired for internationalization and exposure to better strategies in career guidance, research collaborations and for career progression.
- This experience was necessary to experience internationalization in higher education and obtaining the first hand experience in two universities is beneficial for the development of insight as a researcher.
- Investigation of employability skills and global citizenship in undergraduate curriculum was deemed important considering the importance of educational level for career destinations equally both in UK and Pakistan and hence a cross-cultural study was initiated.

There is a move away from internationalization as a Western concept:

“In the current global knowledge society, the concept of internationalization of higher education has itself become globalized, demanding further consideration of its impact on policy and practice as more countries and types of institution around the world engage in the process. Internationalization should no longer be considered in terms of a westernized, largely AngloSaxon, and predominantly English-speaking paradigm” (Jones & de Wit 2014, 28).

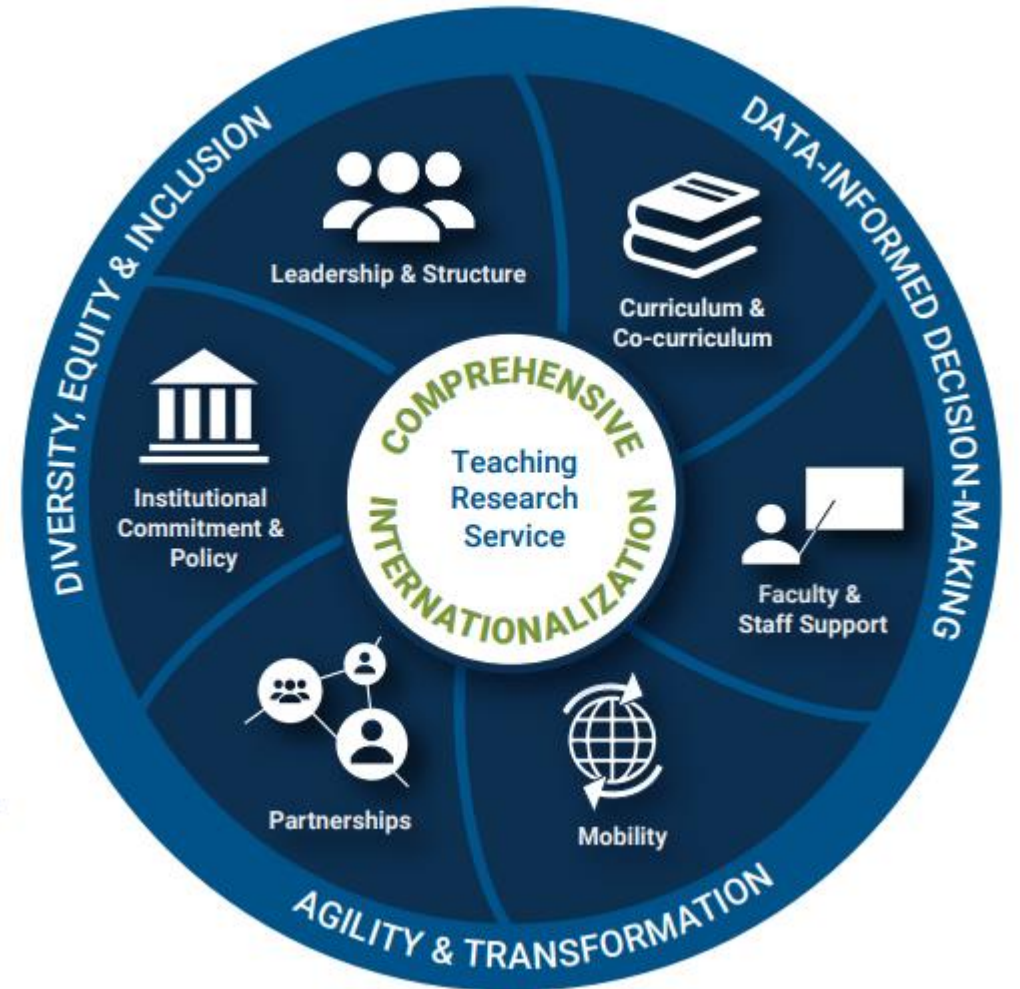
Internationalization of Higher Education

- Internationalisation of higher education refers to the “integration process of international/ intercultural dimension into the teaching, research, and service functions of an institution” (Knight, 1993).
- “Internationalization as a concept and strategic agenda is a relatively new, broad, and varied phenomenon in tertiary education, driven by a dynamic combination of political, economic, sociocultural, and academic rationales and stakeholders. Its impact on regions, countries, and institutions varies according to their particular contexts” (de Wit & Albach, p. 1, 2021).
- A range of strategies are included such as student mobility, as internationalisation at home, consists of incorporating intercultural and international dimensions into the curriculum, teaching, research and extracurricular activities; transnational education sometimes delivered through off-shore campuses, joint programmes, distance learning (Henard, Diamond, & Roseveare , 2012).

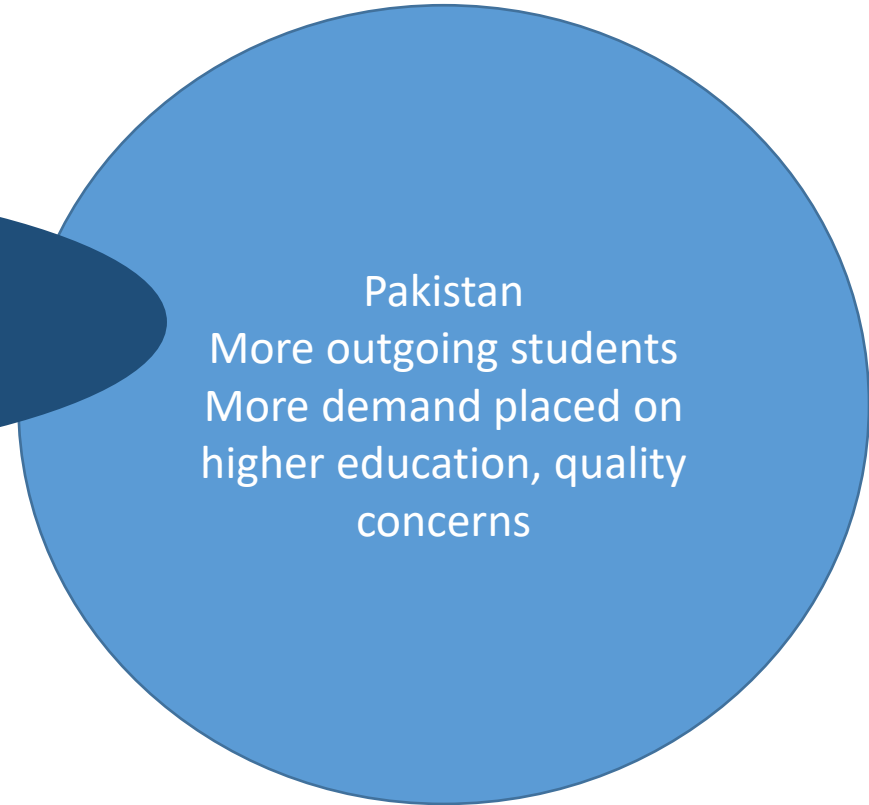
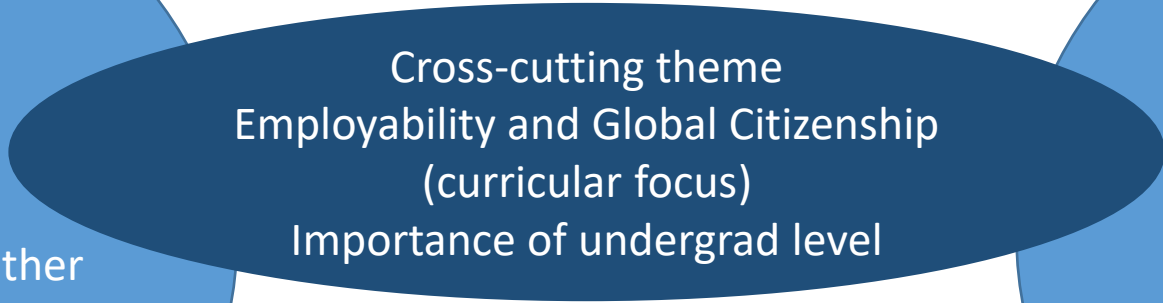
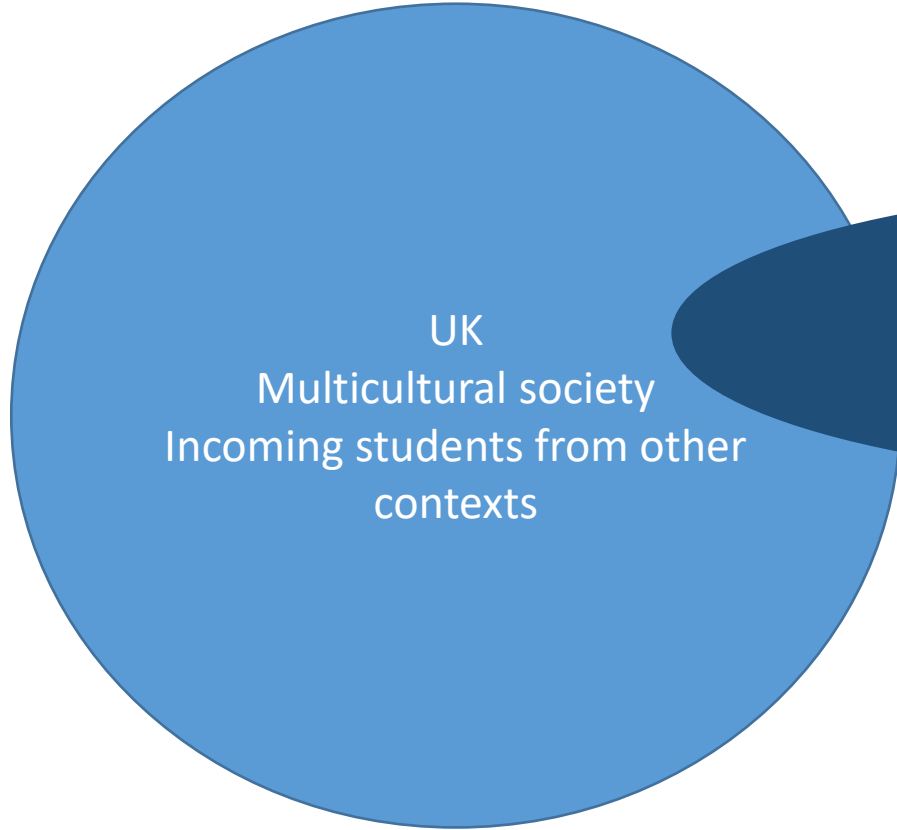
Comprehensive Internationalisation

“ACE defines comprehensive internationalization as a strategic, coordinated framework that integrates policies, programs, initiatives, and individuals to make colleges and universities more globally oriented and internationally connected”.

(American Council on Education, 2022; p.1)



Lessons Learned during the Research



Reflections on Process and Method of Research

Research	Challenges & Opportunities
Process of research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with two universities was time-taking• The perspectives taken through interactions were meaningful• Engagement of participants leads to understanding their perspectives and promoting the importance of global citizenship• The preference of nationalism may create hindrance
Method of research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online data gathering-challenging• In-person-engaging in the concept itself• Quantitative-comparison possible as dimensions can be identified• Quantitative-limited perspective but feasibility for cross-cultural comparison• Qualitative-supports in-depth focus and exploration of unique perceptions and factors• Selecting sites for cross-cultural research (comparative focus on internationalization)• Case study approach-support tapping institutional focus
Digitisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online research (opportunities for creating consortium with career experts from other contexts)• Data gathering for expanding career services for global labour market entry• Trainings and research needs in online career counselling (internationalization of career counselling itself)
Research ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permission from the universities• Challenges in reporting

Links of Research & Practice

Links of Research and Practice to Promote IoH

- Career counsellor's research on national and international labour markets information is necessary.
- Career counsellors understanding of counselling with clients from different contexts and cultures is important.
- Career counsellors can become advocates of IoH.
- Career counsellors with the labour markets information can play significant roles in curriculum development and revision.

Avenues for Career Practitioners

This opens avenues for career practitioners to

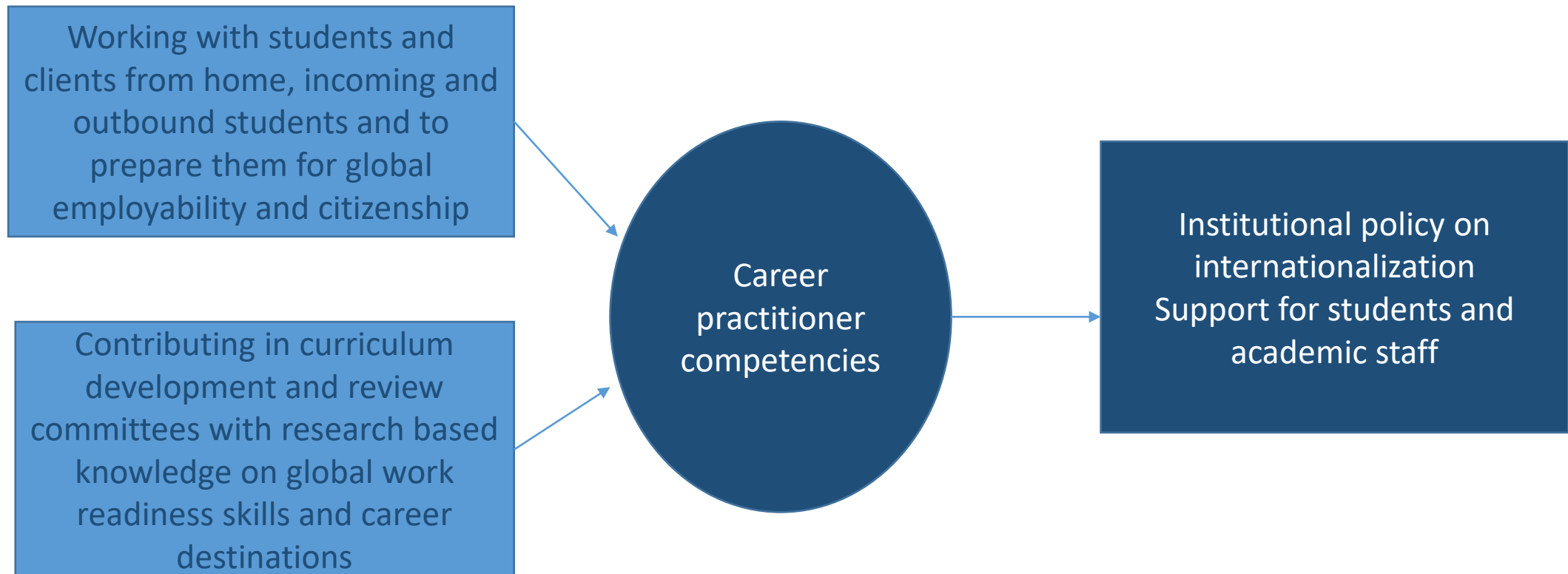
- become globalised researchers.
- investigate internationalisation in higher education (mobility, stress in international students, labour market information).
- know the current status of research in this area.
- understand the challenges during the research process (framework, stakeholders, methodologies).

The Challenges

The following complexities may challenge for contributing in internationalisation

- International educational programs
- International work destinations
- Scholarship information
- Reaching potential collaborators
- Pandemic and labour market

Key Roles of Career Practitioners in Higher Education



Opportunities and a Way Forward

Researching

- crucial skills and competences to gain employment is important.
- global career readiness skills is important, collaborations and networking through forming consortia of like-minded experts may be helpful.
- students having mobility intentions is important.
- stress issues of students from other cultures and contexts is required
- investigating labour market demands is important.
- online career counselling is a future avenue. Researching effectiveness is important.
- institutional case studies is helpful in understanding dynamics of internationalization unique to an organization.

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Thank You