HOW TO INCREASE THE VOLUME OF STUDENTS GOING ABROAD
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• International Coordinator and Student Counsellor for Mechanical Engineering since 2014
• Developing and promoting international programs (taught in English) for Mechanical Engineering since 2003
DISCLAIMER

• The following slides may – due to the subject – be a little self promoting. I apologize for the inconvenience 😊

• This is not an evidence based study – it is more based on my feelings/impressions
THE 3 UNITS

- International Office (Aarhus University)
- International Office (Faculties of Technical and Natural Sciences)
- International Adviser (Department of Mechanical and Production Engineering) (Me – what do I do?)
MY GOAL SINCE 2014

• Increasing the number of outgoing students to a new level
  • Encouraging students to go abroad
  • Using older students as ambassadors
  • Creating a “going abroad culture”
• Building up and maintaining relations with relevant partners – European and Overseas
• Building up a portfolio of “preferred partner universities”
• Visiting selected partner universities and - if possible – visiting our students abroad
• Finding and visiting new relevant partner universities
STATISTICS

Number of admitted students

- Electronics, Power and ICT
- Civil and architectural
- Mechanical
- Chemistry and biotechnology

Year: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Number of admitted students
Number of students going abroad

- Electronics, Power and ICT
- Civil and architectural
- Mechanical
- Chemistry and biotechnology
Going abroad/admitted (%)
Mechanical Engineering Students studying abroad
TO BE HONEST:

I NEVER STUDIED ABROAD

• It was not very used and supported in the 70’s and early 80’s
• Instead of spending 5 months abroad I spend 5 years in Copenhagen 😊
CREATING GOOD CONDITIONS FOR EXCHANGE

- 6th semester as mobility window – no hard constraints
- Fast and flexible preapproval (delegated to the international coordinator = me)
RELEVANT TRICK

• I have taught in the same Calculus course in 2nd semester since 2014 – ie I have met all Mechanical Engineering students at Aarhus University during the last 8 years
  • I know a lot of the students
  • They all know me (hopefully) – and know that I am the international coordinator

• I make an introduction on how to study abroad already at 2. semester
• I tell nearly the same for the 3rd and 4th semester
• The more you repeat the more they understand, the students.
• I tell small stories from my visits at the partner universities, shows photos etc. – which I suppose gives me a kind of ”authenticity” – I have been there myself – not only read a book or seen a Youtube video (The use the same trick at travel agents in order to building up an authenticity)

• On the sophomore/junior study tour abroad: Visit partner universities!
• My fuel: Travelling!
FOCUS UNIVERSITIES

• Scandinavian universities
  • our common "Scandinavian language" increases the number of relevant courses
• European universities with (a certain number of) English taught courses
• UK and Ireland (the language)
• Universities in countries abroad with English as main language (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore ea)
• Special partners
VISITING UNIVERSITIES

• My master plan:
  • A 2 week tour abroad in the spring
  • A single week tour in Europe in the fall
  • If possible – select universities, when our own students are there.

• Study tour with students:
  • Tours every fall – 3rd and 4th semester.
  • Use transport time in busses to make pep talks
  • Visit one or more university/-ties – if possible universities with AU students
A FEW PHOTOS
TECNUN, SAN SEBASTIAN, SPANIEN
ULM, GERMANY
NTNU, TRONDHEIM, NORWAY
LULEÅ TEKNISKA UNIVERSITETET, SWEDEN
ZHAW, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
MCI, INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA
Canceled
UARK, ARKANSAS, USA
NMSU, NEW MEXICO, USA
CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON, USA
CONCLUSION

If you

• tell the students about going abroad
• repeat-repeat-repeat
• use older students as ambassadors
• tell stories
• show photos
• travel-travel-travel
• bring sophomores/juniors to exchange universities during their study tour - as an appetizer

then you will make a *Going Abroad* hype!
Thank you!