

A Quest for International Curriculum Innovation
and Change in Vietnam
Higher Education Institutions

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Content

- ◆ The context and the needs of internationalization of curriculum
- ◆ Theories on curriculum development and management;
- ◆ Good practices from other international curriculum innovation
- ◆ Recommendations

The context and the needs of internationalization of curriculum

- ◆ “as a means of rising in the rankings and enhancing institutional prestige and visibility” (Green, 2012).
- ◆ Vietnam has adopted national education development plans and strategies
- ◆ Focusing on international integration(Higher Education Renovation Project for 2006 – 2020)

The context and the needs of internationalization of curriculum

- ◆ Foreign – invested universities (Higher Education Law 2012).
- ◆ Strategic objectives:
 1. To improve the educational system,
 2. To produce highly qualified human(Education Strategic Development Plan 2011-2020).

The context and the needs of internationalization of curriculum

- ◆ Universities: expanded and established international relations and cooperation with an increasing number of partners.
- ◆ Forms of cooperating: postgraduate and undergraduate training, vocational, distance, short-term training courses.
- ◆ Nearly 200 joint programs are permitted (VIED, 2016) coming from various foreign partners.

The context and the needs of internationalization of curriculum

- ◆ The outbound students was very high, rising significantly over the year; reaching more than 100,000 students in 2012 (MOET, 2012).
- ◆ Becomes second highest country in term of foreign students in the Southeast Asian region (UNESCO, 2013).
- ◆ Eighth highest in the USA (Institute of International Education, 2013).
- ◆ Predicted to increase because “Vietnam is an emerging center” of internationalization in Asia Pacific and ASEAN region (Albatch and Knight, 2011)

The context and the needs of internationalization of curriculum

- ◆ Training by advanced programs at some Vietnamese universities in period 2008-2015.
- ◆ These advanced programs are designed and established curriculum by Vietnamese universities with reference to the curricula currently used at prestigious universities in the world.
- ◆ The overall target of this project: to reach the regional and international education standards

Curriculum Development

Author	Charaterictics
Tyler's (1940)	Determining objectives, Identify educational experiences, Organize experiences, Evaluate purpose
Tomb and Tierney (2005)	the context, the content and the form
Wiggins and Mc Tighe (2005)	Backward design model : identify intended learning outcomes, determining acceptable evidences and designing learning experiences and instructions
Nodine (2015)	Competency-based approach: mastery of knowledge and skills. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establishing clearly competencies- Assessing students' competencies- Flexible timeframe and personalized instructions.

Curriculum management and change

Author	Characteristics
Wiles and Bondi (1979, 1984)	Four stage: analysis, design, implementation or management and evaluation
University of Central Arkansas, 2015	two major areas: curriculum development/review and assurance of learning
Tirado, Barriga (2016)	conceptualization, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
Glenda Crosling, Ron Edwards and Bill Schroder(2008)	supports from many stakeholders for big issues such as curriculum development, academic autonomy, budget, resources allocation
Carnall (1997)	three conditions for effective change: understand the need for change, capability, (“ownership” feeling
Burnes (1996)	two types of change management, including planned and emergent

SGood Practices of Internationalization of Curriculum

- ◆ Internationalization of curriculum: incorporation of international, intercultural and global dimension into learning outcomes, content, assessment, teaching methods, support services (Knight, 2007; IDP, Leask 2029; Gyn, Lehr, Caws, Preece, 2009).
- ◆ A framework for internationalization of curriculum (Leask, 2015): the requirement of professional practice and citizenship, assessment of student learning, systematic development curriculum. The institutional context, local context, national context, and global context.

Good Practices of Internationalization of Curriculum

- ◆ Edwards and colleges (2013) identified three levels of internationalization of curriculum including international awareness, international competence and international expertise.
- ◆ American Council on Education suggested international and intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes as student's global learning outcomes.
- ◆ Florida International University developed global awareness, global perspectives and global engagement

Good Practices of Internationalization of Curriculum

- ◆ Michigan University proposed global competency in their learning outcomes.
- ◆ Griffith Institute for Higher Education (2011): 1) Course content, 2) learning and teaching activities, 3) materials, 4) tools and resources, 5) classroom practices, 6) assessment, 7) international exchange, 8) evaluation and review, 9) international accreditation.
- ◆ Leask (2015): (1) Review and Reflect; (2) Imagine; (3) Revise and Plan; (4) Act; (5) Evaluate

Research findings and Recommendations

- ◆ Objective of study: To investigate the current state and needs of internationalization of curriculum.
- ◆ Research Methods:
 - conducted twelve interviews with policy makers and administrators
 - survey opinions from 67 instructors and 217 students

Research findings and Recommendations

- ◆ The result shows that internationalization of curriculum in Vietnam higher education is highly valued and academic priority.
- ◆ Recommendations from the policy makers and administrators perspectives :
 1. Develop a legal mechanism for developing and implementing the international programs for Vietnamese universities to reach top-ranking universities in ASEAN and Asia.

Research findings and Recommendations

2. Developing strategies for international programs. Those strategies should express the combination between internationalization with nationalization.
3. Reviewing, updating, and replacing the out of date curriculum but also developing distinctive and competence-based programs.
4. Develop more international programs in English, French, German, Japanese, Chinese for sustainable and diversity purposes

Research findings and Recommendations

5. Investments and evaluation on the efficiency of the programs. These investments should be big, holistic and in long-term.
6. Improving the foreign language ability for lecturers and students by national projects
7. Increasing staff's development and attract good staff through good salary policy
8. Developing website, playgrounds and activities for students learning.
9. Marketing for the program as well as diversify the goals of program
10. Enhance the quality of training and research, meeting the international standards

Research findings and Recommendations

Dimension	Instructors' opinions	Students' opinions
1	Strategy of an international curriculum	Mission of the institution
2	Program evaluation	Learning outcomes of an international curriculum
3	Student services Learning resources of an international curriculum	Vision of the institution
4	Vision of the Vietnam higher education institution	Goals, objectives of an international curriculum of education management
5	Program structure, learning experience Instructions of an international curriculum	Vision of the faculty of education

Conclusion

- ◆ 100 % of policy makers and administrators certified the needs of developing international curriculum.
- ◆ The total average score about the needs of internalization of curriculum from instructors and students are high.
- ◆ More concern about some challenges or educational policies hinder in international curriculum.

Conclusion

- ◆ Conduct needs analysis from students and employers before developing the new curriculum.
- ◆ Develop codes of ethics in teaching, learning, and research.
- ◆ The resistance culture and low salary policy for faculty members influence on the process of change and develop innovative curriculum.
- ◆ Develop a good policy in tuition fee for international curriculum.