

INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

L. Parmenter*, J. Sparks, A. Sagintayeva, A. Li, A. Ashirbekov, Z. Jumakulov

Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education, Astana, Kazakhstan; *lynneparmenter@nu.edu.kz

Introduction. Applying theories of internationalization, organization structures, and policy transfer, this research examined institutional engagement with internationalization by higher education institutions in Kazakhstan, and generated insights into the alignment and disjunction of strategies and approaches at the national and institutional levels, as well as the progress and challenges faced by Kazakhstani higher education institutions.

Methods. This qualitative research collected data through multiple methods: document analysis of national and institutional strategies, as well as survey, focus group and in-depth interviews with university Vice Rector and International Officers.

Results. This research has identified potential challenges that the Kazakhstani government and higher education institutions face, including the wide gap between Kazakhstan and more developed countries in terms of internationalization, the disjunction of strategies at the national and institutional levels, and the lack the capacity to implement internationalization at institutional level.

Conclusions. This research does not suggest that Kazakhstani higher education should follow the exact patterns of other national contexts. However, in a time of dramatic change in policy, leadership, administration, teaching and research, all stakeholders should begin to take notice of these changes in a proactive manner.

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