

Measuring the international orientation of universities in rankings

After a short introduction on the notion of international orientation and internationalisation the authors present an overview on indicators on international orientation used in international rankings (ARWU, THE, QS, US News, and U-Multirank). The authors will argue that international orientation cannot be measured by one single indicator; the measurement should reflect the multi-faceted nature of international orientation. Indicators have to take into account the various aspects with regard to various functions of universities, as teaching, research, and institutional interconnectedness. At the same time international orientation has to be conceived as a bi-directional phenomenon. Hence indicators should look on both “inbound” and “outbound” exchange. The discussion will focus on the validity of individual indicators. Finally, a new indicator to measure the diversity of international students at higher education institutions will be presented.