



Lincoln University

Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki

Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand

Sister Cities New Zealand 25th Anniversary Conference 2006

Learning from Others

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Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand

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- **The role of university education in creating international opportunities**
- **The particular experience of Lincoln University**
- **How can education opportunities be used to foster the Sister Cities programme?**

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The role of university education in creating international opportunities

- Significant student in-flows develop awareness and knowledge by those in service and retail sectors
- The presence of international students in our communities enhances understanding and tolerance
- From a New Zealand perspective there is huge value in having international graduates from our universities returning to their home or to other countries.
- The challenge is to enhance two way student (and staff) exchange and not to focus solely on export education as a business.



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The particular experience of Lincoln University

- A long history of internationalisation, particularly since the early 1990's.
- The University emphasises the value of internationalisation as a strong feature:
 - students from >65 countries
 - a large number of international staff
 - development of an international curriculum for NZ and international students
 - a significant international presence in teaching, research and consultancy



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The particular experience of Lincoln University

- Significant experience in delivering academic programmes offshore
 - creates a basis for stronger understanding of cultural differences
 - of major value in the professional development of staff
- There has been a serious attempt to create diversity in international opportunities

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The particular experience of Lincoln University

Examples that relate to both focus and diversity:

- Sarawak/Kuching
 - Delivery of an academic programme to support professional development of National Parks staff
 - Delivery of an academic programme to the forestry industry to support sustainable development
 - Involvement in the development of tourism planning
 - A long standing involvement in agricultural development

All these initiatives relate to priorities in the local economy

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Examples that relate to both focus and diversity:

- Europe
 - Development of two jointly awarded Masters Degrees
 - Environmental Sustainability – BOKU, Vienna
 - International Nature Conservation – Georg August University, Goettingen
 - Longstanding student exchange programmes
- USA
 - Regular visits by groups of 20-25 students from land-grant universities for semester or Summer School visits
 - Longstanding student exchange programmes

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How can education opportunities be used to foster the Sister Cities Programme?

- Encourage universities to put priority on university links with key cities
- Recognise that education links are enduring and establish the basis for long term relationships



How can education opportunities be used to foster the Sister Cities Programme?

- Develop exchange programmes for students (and staff) that take the emphasis away from uni-directional, export education
- Convince young New Zealanders that study abroad opportunities are a critical part of their university education
- Use the research performance of universities to create industry/university programmes through technology parks and similar



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