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**WE ARE A UK
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
WINNER**



Overview



- Origins and driving factors in Strathclyde's Brazil developments
- What have we achieved so far
- Obstacles and lessons learned
- Future opportunities

University of Strathclyde



- Founded in 1796 by Professor John Anderson as *The Place of Useful learning*
- 3rd largest university in Scotland & leading international technological university
- One of the top 20 research-intensive universities in the UK (REF 2014)
- UK University of the Year and Entrepreneurial University of the Year winner (THE)
- Our values - people-oriented, bold, innovative, collaborative, ambitious



Origins and Driving Factors



- **Ciências sem Fronteiras (CSF) exchange program**
 - Strathclyde largest recipient in UK of Brazilian CsF undergraduate students
 - Success of student groups significantly raised profile of Brazil within institution
 - Frequent visits to the country, initially focussing on student recruitment, highlighted the strength of the HE sector in Brazil and the opportunities for wider mutually-beneficial partnership development



Origins and Driving Factors



- Strathclyde established a **long term view** regarding its involvement in Brazil and **academics sought to establish exchange agreements and investigate mutual research areas** in addition to the recruitment activity being undertaken
- Partners identified in terms of rankings, research interests, course offering, existing researcher links and activity in CsF
- 3 initial partnerships prioritised – UFMG, UFRJ and USP Poli



Strathclyde & Brazil - Institutional Developments



Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)

- **Student Exchange**
 - 2 x 5th year Mechanical Engineering MEng students to UFMG in Feb 2016 to do research projects
 - UG exchange students from UFMG expected in 2016
- **Joint research activity**
 - Senior researchers from across Faculty of Engineering met counterparts in April 2014 and 2015 in Belo Horizonte
 - Workshops identified in Renewable Energy, Water and Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering planned for March 2016
 - Split PhDs in Chemical Engineering planned
 - Joint applications for Newton funding envisaged from above workshops
- **Senior engagement**
 - Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir Jim McDonald visited UFMG in April 2014 and met counterpart at UFMG to highlight importance of partnership

Strathclyde & Brazil - Institutional Developments



Universidade de São Paulo USP (USP)

- **Student Exchange Agreement**
 - 2 x 5th year Chemical Engineering MEng students went to USP to do research projects in February 2015
 - 1 USP Engineering research student has come to Strathclyde in 2015
- **Research Engagement**
 - Identification of areas of mutual research interest is underway.
 - Discussions around joint PhD agreement

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)

- **Student Exchange Agreement**
 - 1 x 5th year Chemical Engineering MEng students went to UFRJ in Nov 14 to do research project
 - 1 UFRJ Engineering research student has come to Strathclyde in 2015
- **Research Engagement**
 - Identification of areas of mutual research interest is underway – research workshops held in April 2014
 - Follow up activity planned for Spring 2016

Obstacles and Lessons Learned - Exchange



- **There were some barriers in sending exchange students** to Brazil as classes are mostly taught in Portuguese-this was navigated by students doing research projects
- Identification of research projects and supervisors available which match students' interests and working out timing due to the different semester structure can be challenging and time-consuming for both sides
- As students are doing projects the relationship with an individual professor and their English language level is important however this is not an issue with our partners.
- When sending the first students on exchange setting up the correct contacts and processes can be difficult due to different structures but is key
- The lack of student accommodation on campus in Brazil and the need to find private accommodation is challenging for students.



Obstacles and Lessons Learned – Research



- Student exchange agreements useful means to establish relationship and open door to increased collaboration. It requires time and effort on both sides to identify the correct areas, people and processes to develop further.
- Matching research areas is a continuing process which takes time –it is important that research staff are available to travel
- Communication and identifying structures and key people can be difficult - face-to-face contact is important in building relationships
- An investment of staff time and financial commitment is necessary – although opportunities via Newton Fund etc, institutional investment is key

Key ingredients in our success



- A focus on Brazil by senior faculty members and a desire to establish deeper partnerships beyond CSF.
- Commitment of people and financial resources to travel to Brazil.
- Good collaboration between the faculties and the Recruitment & International Office at Strathclyde in terms of joint activity and sharing information.
- Internal funding and successful Newton bids.

Strathclyde's future strategy in Brazil



- Aim to continue to participate actively in CSF in whatever form it takes, but also to maintain and deepen partnerships beyond CSF
- To establish joint research bids to the Newton fund with partners in areas of mutual interest
- To prioritise sandwich PhD agreements with our partners in Brazil
- To increase student and staff mobility
- Maintain and grow awareness of Strathclyde via our Brazil office



In Summary



- In establishing partnerships, presence in Brazil is key.
- Investment of staff and a financial commitment.
- Identification of partners and mutual research areas.
- Exchange agreements can encourage mobility and sharing of information, establishing contacts.
- Funding opportunities such as the Newton fund are available to help develop research partnerships.



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