SuCCESS
Strengthening Criminology Teaching
Fortaleciendo la Enseñanza en Criminología
Fortalecendo o Ensino da Criminologia

Findings of the learning mobilities of South American universities professors/researchers to European Universities

Outcomes of mobilities of teachers from

Universidad Católica San Pablo and Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in

Introduction

This e-brochure introduces the findings of the learning mobilities of South American Universities professors and researchers to European Universities, held in the framework of the SuCCESS project.

Professors and researchers from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos and Universidad Católica San Pablo had their learning mobilities between June and July 2022 to the University Miguel Hernandez, Porto University and Portuguese Catholic University, in Spain and Portugal.

This document is designed for professors, researchers, policymakers, and higher education enthusiasts interested in the evolution of criminology education. It is a reference to the findings of South American professors' learning mobility in European universities, to improve criminology education. In this document, you will discover:

Main Gains and Benefits

Explore how mobility experiences for Peruvian professors resulted in an enhanced understanding of academic programs, a heightened emphasis on research, strengthened professional profiles, and the integration of new tools. These encounters have fostered collaborations on a global scale, promoting criminology education in Peru.

Lessons for Universities

Apply the lessons acquired from these mobility experiences to enhance criminology programs in Peru. These insights offer a pathway to success, across curriculum design to interdisciplinary collaboration.

Impact on Criminology Programs

Witness the transformative impact on criminology programs in Peru, including refined curriculum development, a focus on research excellence, and the adoption of innovative teaching approaches. These changes prepare students for the challenges of the modern criminal justice system.

Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Explore how mobility experiences elevated pedagogical and methodological approaches in Peru, inspiring innovative teaching tools, enriched curricula, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

New Criminology Insights

Gain new perspectives on cybercrime, upgraded curricula, global research collaborations, innovative teaching methods, and shared educational resources, contributing to a comprehensive, practical criminology education in Peru.

1. What were the main gains and benefits of the mobilities?

Main Gains and Benefits
Diverse Research Exposure: Exposure to conferences and presentations from Spanish and Portuguese colleagues provided insights into various research lines in these countries. It also enabled the identification of applicable topics for research in Peru and learned new methodologies, especially in qualitative research in criminology.
Network Building: Establishment of valuable connections with experienced researchers in different criminology topics. This network serves as a resource for future consultations and collaborations in research and teaching.
Curriculum Rethinking: The mobilities prompted a reconsideration of the planned course content for the postgraduate criminology program. It also enhanced the possibilities for inviting international professors to contribute to course delivery.

Recommendations for other Higher Education Organizations
Prioritize Global Academic Alignment: Understand the Global Landscape: Prioritize gaining insights into the global academic landscape in criminology. Align with International Standards: Identify conditions required by international educational systems and align programs with global standards.
Emphasize Research and Interdisciplinary Approaches: Cultivate a Research Culture: Foster a culture of research within criminology programs to stay at the forefront of developments. Encourage Interdisciplinary Learning: Promote interdisciplinary approaches to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of criminology.
Foster International Collaborations: Build Global Networks: Actively seek opportunities to build international partnerships and collaborations. Facilitate Cooperative Research: Establish communication channels and alliances for cooperative research and sharing of best practices.
Invest in Modern Tools and Methodologies: Embrace Technological Advancements: Stay updated on modern tools and methodologies used in criminology research and analysis. Integrate Technological Tools: Embrace and integrate modern technologies to enhance program content and delivery.

1.1 Lessons learned for other universities to improve their criminology programmes

Enhance Curriculum Design

Embrace Diverse Research Methodologies:

- Recognize the importance of incorporating diverse research methodologies, including qualitative approaches, to enrich criminology programs.

- Encourage faculty and students to explore and apply a variety of research methods for a comprehensive understanding of criminological phenomena.

Curriculum Flexibility:

- Encourage universities to maintain a flexible curriculum that can adapt to emerging trends and research findings.

- Stress the importance of regularly reviewing and updating course content to ensure relevance and alignment with global criminological developments.

Prioritize Victimological Theories:

- Highlight the importance of integrating new victimological theories into the curriculum.

- Stress the need for courses focusing on victimization processes and risk assessment to better prepare students for comprehensive crime prevention strategies.

Invest in Faculty Development

Foster International Collaborations:

- Highlight the significance of building global networks and partnerships for universities seeking to enhance their criminology programs.

- Emphasize the benefits of collaborative research opportunities and student exchange programs to enrich the educational experience

Promote Interdisciplinarity

Utilize External Expertise:

- Recommend the integration of external expertise through collaborations with foreign professors.

- Suggest inviting international experts to contribute to course delivery, providing students with diverse perspectives and knowledge.

Explore Advanced Tools

Promote Teaching Innovation:

- Advocate for the integration of innovative teaching techniques observed during mobilities.

- Encourage the use of varied resources and teaching methods to enhance the learning experience for criminology students.

2. Impact on the design of new or improved Criminology Programmes

Curriculum Evolution

Global Alignment: Mobility experiences drive the evolution of Criminology Programs towards globally aligned, advanced curricula.

Cutting-edge Integration: Curricula seamlessly incorporate the latest trends and international standards for a comprehensive, up-to-date education.

Innovative Learning: The introduction of innovative courses engages students with contemporary issues, empowering faculty with cutting-edge tools.

Research Excellence

Reinforced Emphasis: Mobility experiences elevate the emphasis on research, encouraging students to actively contribute to criminological knowledge expansion.

Global Collaboration: Collaborative initiatives with international partners address complex global criminology issues, nurturing critical thinking.

Academic Hub: Institutions strengthen their position as academic hubs, fostering a culture of research and inquiry.

Interdisciplinary Focus

Holistic Perspective: Criminology Programs prioritize an interdisciplinary approach, ensuring graduates possess a diverse skill set.

Diverse Exploration: Students integrate insights from law, psychology, sociology, and technology, fostering a collaborative mindset.

Cross-disciplinary Culture: Academic institutions actively promote collaboration among faculty members.

Practical Orientation

Real-world Emphasis: Mobility experiences highlight the importance of practical orientation.

Hands-on Exposure: Programs incorporate field visits, laboratory sessions, and simulations for practical skill enhancement.

Industry Partnerships: Academic institutions establish partnerships, facilitating internships and bridging the theory-practice gap.

2.1. Lessons learned for other universities to improve their criminology programmes

Global Curriculum Insights

International Standards: Exposure to diverse academic environments provides insights into aligning programs with global standards.

Educational Benchmarks: Understanding international educational systems helps enhance curriculum design and relevance.

Research Culture Cultivation

Student Involvement: Encouraging students to engage in research projects fosters a culture of inquiry and contributes to criminological knowledge.

Collaborative Endeavors: Lessons from collaborative research initiatives emphasize the importance of global partnerships in tackling complex criminology issues.

Interdisciplinary Approach

Broadening Perspectives: Lessons learned underscore the value of an interdisciplinary approach for a comprehensive understanding of criminology.

Cross-disciplinary Collaboration: Promoting a culture of cross-disciplinary collaboration among faculty members enhances program quality.

Practical Emphasis

Real-world Exposure: Lessons highlight the significance of practical orientation, forcing programs to incorporate hands-on experiences.

Industry Connections: Establishing partnerships with industry stakeholders becomes crucial for bridging theory and practice effectively.

3. Innovation in methodological and pedagogical aspects

Elevated Criminal Procedure Courses

The mobility programs significantly influenced the thematic and methodological design of Criminal Procedure courses.

The integration of knowledge gained from mobility experiences enhanced the overall learning experiences for students in these courses.

Professors incorporated novel concepts, such as therapeutic justice and gender analysis, into the curriculum. These additions expanded the scope and relevance of the courses.

Advanced tools and techniques acquired during the mobility programs were integrated into the courses, providing students with practical skills for real-world application.

Enriched Faculties

Beyond individual courses, the impact of mobility experiences extended to entire faculties, including Systems Engineering, Law, Psychology, and Science.

Course content was transformed to incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives, fostering a holistic understanding of criminology.

Methodological approaches evolved to promote collaborative learning, encouraging students to draw insights from various disciplines to address complex criminological challenges.

Professors from different faculties collaborated to develop comprehensive programs that prepared students to analyze criminal phenomena from multiple angles, including legal, psychological, and scientific perspectives.

Innovative Teaching Methodologies

The mobility experiences inspired innovative teaching methodologies that moved beyond traditional lecture-based approaches.

Active learning strategies, such as case studies, group discussions, and hands-on exercises, were introduced to engage students and promote critical thinking.

The use of advanced tools and technology, such as qualitative research software and data analysis programs, became a cornerstone of pedagogy.

Professors leveraged these tools to create dynamic and interactive learning environments that mirrored the challenges and opportunities of the real world.

Collaborative Research Initiatives

The enriched faculties not only impacted teaching but also research initiatives.

Professors collaborated on research projects that transcended disciplinary boundaries, contributing to a wealth of knowledge in criminology.

Interdisciplinary research not only broadened the scope of inquiry but also led to innovative solutions for addressing complex criminological issues.

Students benefited from faculty-led research projects, gaining exposure to cutting-edge methodologies and insights.

3.1. Suggestions to find innovative aspects to improve methodological and pedagogical approaches

Global Academic Integration

International Collaboration Emphasis: Prioritize understanding global criminological perspectives and align programs with international standards.

Network and Partnership Building: Foster collaborations and partnerships with international institutions, enhancing research and knowledge exchange.

Research and Interdisciplinary Focus

Cultivate a Research Culture: Promote a research-centric environment, encouraging students to engage in projects that contribute to global criminological knowledge.

Interdisciplinary Integration: Emphasize interdisciplinary education, incorporating insights from law, psychology, sociology, and technology for a holistic understanding.

Technological Advancements

Incorporate Modern Tools: Stay alongside technological advancements, integrating modern tools for criminal analysis into the curriculum.

Practical Orientation: Enhance practical training through field visits, simulations, and real-world applications, bridging theory and practice.

Industry-Academia Collaboration

Strengthen Ties with Industry: Develop connections between academia and industry to align programs with job market needs.

Internship Opportunities: Facilitate internships, guest lectures, and industry partnerships for students to gain practical insights and skills.

4. New content and educational materials

Diversifying Curriculum Content

The curriculum undergoes regular reviews to ensure its relevance, incorporating the latest trends and emerging topics in criminology. By integrating global perspectives and diverse cultural insights, students gain a comprehensive understanding of crime and justice on a broader scale.

Active Learning Strategies

To bridge the gap between theory and practice, the adoption of active learning strategies becomes paramount. Real-world case studies and simulations immerse students in practical scenarios, encouraging the application of theoretical knowledge. Field visits to criminal justice institutions and forensic laboratories provide hands-on experiences, enriching their educational journey.

Utilizing Advanced Teaching Tools

Embracing modern technologies for criminal analysis becomes integral. This ensures students not only acquire theoretical knowledge but also gain practical experience with cutting-edge tools. Faculty members are encouraged to explore and integrate innovative teaching methodologies, enhancing engagement and comprehension.

Research-Centric Approach

Elevating the emphasis on research within criminology programs is a cornerstone. Faculty involvement in research projects aligns their expertise with program goals, contributing to the expansion of criminological knowledge. Providing students with opportunities to engage in research nurtures critical thinking and analytical skills.

Continuous Improvement

A feedback-driven culture is instilled, allowing students to actively contribute insights into the effectiveness of course content and materials. The adaptability of the program ensures continuous improvement, allowing timely updates to address emerging criminological challenges.

4.1. How to improve course contents and educational materials

Research and Insight Integration

Promoting Research Initiatives: Foster a culture of research by encouraging faculty and students to actively engage in criminology research projects, contributing valuable insights to the local context.

Localized Research Focus: Tailor research initiatives to address specific criminological challenges in Peru, ensuring the applicability of findings to local issues.

Collaboration and Engagement Strategies

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Encourage collaboration between criminology professionals, academics, and practitioners to enrich course content with a variety of perspectives.

Interactive Learning Tools: Implement interactive learning methods, such as collaborative projects or practical exercises, to engage students actively and provide hands-on experiences.

Assessment and Continuous Improvement

Transparent Evaluation Standards: Establish clear and transparent assessment criteria aligned with course objectives, allowing students to understand their progress and areas for improvement.

Feedback-Driven Culture: Create a feedback-driven culture that involves students, industry experts, and faculty, fostering continuous improvement in course content and delivery.

Innovation in Teaching Tools

Technological Integration: Explore innovative teaching tools, such as virtual simulations or online platforms, to enhance the learning experience and expose students to the latest technological advancements.

Practical Application: Develop practical resources that connect theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios, equipping students with the skills needed to address challenges in the Peruvian criminological landscape.

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