

# Quality Beyond Boundaries Group

## Day 1: Seeking a Global Education: The Student Journey

5 December, 2015

Summary of student panel discussion:

- **Motivating factors for studying in Dubai:**
  - Broaden horizon and experience new cultures. Dubai is a multicultural city.
  - Dubai is a forward thinking city that values innovation. Government is investing a lot in innovation and provides youth with opportunities to create and innovate. "Innovation has become the motto of Dubai." This is so inspiring to students.
  - Study at a branch - home campus has the rankings, legacy, and experience in running academic programmes. Students access an international degree that is recognized around the world.
  - Networking opportunities with classmates, professors.
  - Value of the degree, brand, networking - think about value instead of cost.
  - Very international group of students in Dubai, represents the diversity of Dubai.
  - Security and safety is so important - we're in the middle of so much global turmoil - but Dubai is a unique spot on earth - tolerance. It's very valuable - it's important for families as well where children too can access good education and be safe.
  - "You can choose to be who you are in Dubai" a place where all are accepted.
  - IBCs prepare you for being a student of the world.
  - Being a student that has studied in an international capacity gives you an edge over someone who has not.
  - Work opportunities post education in Dubai.
  - Multi-campus structure is very attractive.
  
- **Opportunities to adding value to the international student experience in Dubai:**
  - "Trade off" - you lose some benefits from not going to the home campus (larger campus, student life) but you also gain advantages from being in Dubai - closer to home, ability to work and study etc.
  - Improve transport services, metro to campus, bus services
  - Increase student life experience (events, clubs), social experiences, appropriate living arrangements,
  - Financial expenses, expensive to live in Dubai is a challenge for students
  - Variety of student accommodation
  
- **What can be done better to improve the student experience?**
  - Important for institutions to contextualize the curriculum.
  - Should not just be a replica of what is being done in the home campus, components of the curriculum can be contextualized to the country the campus is in. i.e. local case studies
  - Greater interaction between the different campuses of the university. Joint research activities?

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- Institutions need to prepare students before they come to a new campus destination. Or perhaps Dubai Government can play a role in this? A greater awareness of Dubai for work, study and life.
- Part time jobs are important. The ability to work on a student visa is very important to students.
- Student discounts transport, food, etc.
- Make Dubai more student friendly.
- Campuses working in isolation - need to integrate the learning experience even more.
- Increasing use of technology in academic programmes.
- International students - convert into employment opportunity.
- Research activity: Students are encouraged to write case studies and do projects that are local and regional in nature.
- Connecting students to the industry.
- Extra-curricular activities, clubs on campus
- Inter-campus activities.

## Other:

- HW - students here are writing a blog - academic and social experiences to study in all three campuses.
- New generation of global citizens - new breed!
- LBS - repository of case studies for the region, creating a body of knowledge.

