

Internationalization of Higher Education Institutions: A Comparative Study in Taiwan and Japan

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Internationalization of higher education institutions (HEIs) is the top stage of international relations among universities, and it is no longer regarded as a goal but as a means to improve the education of sustainability. As institutional commitments to internationalize higher education continue to grow, so too does the need to critically consider both the intended purposes and actual outcomes of the programs and policies that result. This study focuses on how institutional international policies influence outcomes of internationalization in East Asia, especially in Taiwan and Japan. A total of 3,158 participants, including 1,192 Taiwanese, and 1,966 Japanese academics, were recruited to complete the Academic Profession in the Knowledge Society (APIKS), an international survey examining the change in the world of academic work in HEIs. There are three important findings: (1) Both Taiwanese and Japanese academics have higher agreements on the outcomes of internationalization for enhancing academic quality and increasing mobility of students; (2) clear strategy for internationalization can significantly influence teaching-oriented HEIs on internationalization in both countries; and (3) funding for faculty members to undertake research abroad can significantly influence research-oriented HEIs on internationalization in both countries. This study provides insight into the relationship between institutional international policies and outcomes of internationalization in Taiwan and Japan. It also offers some empirical evidence for university leaders to implement managerial strategies for internationalization to promote better education on sustainability in HEIs.

Keywords

Education of sustainability, higher education, internationalization, Japan, Taiwan

Table 1: Results of descriptive analysis for outcomes of internationalization in Taiwan and Japan.

Outcomes of internationalization	Taiwan		Japan	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SE</i>
Enhanced prestige	3.76	0.97	2.64	1.10
Enhanced academic quality	3.63	0.98	3.03	1.11
Increased revenue	3.47	1.04	2.30	1.02
Enhanced research networks	3.52	1.00	3.28	1.06
Increased mobility of students	3.66	1.02	3.11	1.09
Increased mobility of faculty	3.50	0.96	2.81	1.02
Weakening cultural identity	3.48	1.18	2.60	0.92
Increased brain gain	3.57	1.02	2.59	0.99
Increased costs associated with internationalization	3.55	0.99	2.31	1.10

Table 2: Regression analysis of beta standardized coefficients on outcomes of internationalization through institutional international policies in Taiwan and Japan

	Outcomes of Internationalization			
	Taiwan		Japan	
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2
Individual variables				
Academic field (social science = 1, natural science = 2)	.004	-.012	.005	-.003
Academic preference (teaching = 1, research = 2)	.010	.008	.018	.018
Gender (male = 1, female = 2)	.022	.020	-.018	-.015
Age	-.037*	-.026*	-.048*	-.046*
Independent variables- institutional international policies				
strategy for internationalization (P1)	.640***	.369***	.181*	.280***
international exchange programs for students (P2)	.025	-.028	.010	-.113
funding for faculty members to undertake research abroad (P3)	-.103	.134*	.119	.168*
funding for visiting international students (P4)	.213*	.102	-.014	-.069
funding for visiting international scholars (P5)	-.044	-.038	.012	.230***
recruitment of faculty members from foreign countries (P6)	.027	.105	.339***	.159

funding for faculty members to attend international conferences (P7)	-.068	.054	.036	.005
encourages faculty members to publish internationally (P8)	.161	.113*	.104	.132
Interaction variables				
P1*teaching-oriented HEIs	.477***		.134*	
P2*teaching-oriented HEIs	.084		-.039	
P3*teaching-oriented HEIs	.226		-.145	
P4*teaching-oriented HEIs	.260*		.063	
P5*teaching-oriented HEIs	.163		.170	
P6*teaching-oriented HEIs	.035		.280**	
P7*teaching-oriented HEIs	.241		.007	
P8*teaching-oriented HEIs	-.048		.081	
P1*research-oriented HEIs		-.070		-.044
P2*research-oriented HEIs		.187		.197
P3*research-oriented HEIs		.215*		.297*
P4*research-oriented HEIs		-.051		.219
P5*research-oriented HEIs		.174		.329*
P6*research-oriented HEIs		-.101		.041
P7*research-oriented HEIs		.041		.057
P8*research-oriented HEIs		.190*		.022
F value	62.657***	66.178***	50.619***	52.310***
Adj R²	.509	.523	.336	.343