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Entitled

*EXAMINING UNIVERSITY STAKEHOLDERS' PERCEPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
INTERNATIONALIZATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE UAE*

by

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Abstract

The globalization of economies and societies worldwide, has brought massive transformations in the field of higher education, creating a context to include an 'international' dimension in = higher education institutions (HEIs). Global learning is essential in the development of cognitive skills, as well as for increased success among academics, hence institutional stakeholders such as administrators, faculty, and students are key participants in initiatives to internationalize academia. The current study examines the perspectives of institutional stakeholders (top administrators, faculty, and students) concerning the process and implementation of internationalization of higher education in the UAE, revealing its potential benefits and challenges. In a mixed method study, data were collected using online questionnaires and semi-structured interviews with the institutional stakeholders from eight top-ranked institutions in the UAE. To assess the process of internationalization within the 'internationalization cube' framework, official documents regarding policies and strategies were sought from these institutions. The overall findings suggest that institutional stakeholders mainly view internationalization as a significant phenomenon which serves as a tool for the creation and dissemination of knowledge, ultimately to improve the quality of education. The study categorized the institutions under study based on their internationalization efforts, offering decision-makers a rich source of information for beneficial use in planning and implementation of internationalization at their institutions.

**Keywords:** Internationalization in higher education, higher education in the UAE, higher education stakeholders, perception of institutional stakeholders, mixed-method study