WHY IS INTERNATIONALISATION IMPORTANT IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CURRICULA?

11:00-11:45

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INTERNATIONAL TRENDS A LOOK BACK IN TIME

"Occupational therapy is growing and developing throughout the world and therapists are eager for opportunities to exchange views and information with their colleagues. A variety of opportunities exist today for study, travel and employment in countries using occupational therapy services…. As occupational therapists around the world face their common problems and seek solutions, we may see a new era of international cooperation and consultation" (p. 11).


* In 1992 when the article was being written there were 43 member organizations. Today there are 101 member organizations, 982 OT education programs recognized by WFOT, and over 550 000 members. (WFOT website)

SITUATING WITH CONTEXT OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE - A VISION

"Occupational science will be a vibrant academic discipline that will engage in a continuum of knowledge generation and action concerning the construct of occupation, with respect to local and global implications relevant to academia, policy, and the general public. Occupational science will draw on a shared identity that has structure and form, but is also dynamic and mutable based upon sensitivity to context and continual reflexivity that questions its values and research focus. Occupational science will be characterized by diversity and pluralism, with rich and reciprocal ties to a variety of disciplines including, but not limited to, occupational therapy" (p. 136-137)

SITUATING IN CONTEXT
ERASMUS

“Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships are designed to develop and share innovative practices as well as promote cooperation, peer learning, and exchanges of experiences in order to provide opportunities to strengthen and build:

- recognition and validation of knowledge, skills, and competences transnationally,
- development of new systems for education, training, and youth,
- support for learners with disabilities and special needs and ease their transition to the labor market,
- education and training professionals to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in learning,
- integration of newly arrived migrants and raising awareness about the refugee crisis in Europe,
- entrepreneurship and active citizenship among young people.”

* From Erasmus+ website – strategic partnerships

SITUATING IN CONTEXT
DIRECTIVES FROM SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

- Internationalization within higher education and research is necessary for Sweden to access new perspectives and better be able to address national and global challenges.
- More students should gain international perspectives through their education, i.e. through activities encouraging more students, teachers, and researchers to engage in work abroad.
- All students who do not take advantage of possibilities to study abroad should still gain an international experience and international perspective.
- There is a need to increase Sweden’s attractiveness as a study destination and place to build knowledge.
- Students and researchers that utilize mobility possibilities between countries are key agents in the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

* From 2019 New Goals and Strategies for Internationalisation of Universities & Colleges

ONE CASE ILLUSTRATION
OUR EXPERIENCES TELL US THAT…

Integrating international, intercultural, and global dimensions into the delivery of education (Internationalization) requires more than mobility of students/teachers, language proficiency, and/or increased knowledge about globalization; it requires the meeting of pedagogic traditions and discourses. When we succeed, we facilitate:

- Possibilities to enhance professional identities among students and teachers
- Develop & build understanding of clinical, edu, and research roles in relation to a global context.
- Bringing students & staff together from different countries through international exchange
- Possibilities to identify & describe inter-disciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives of health/rehabilitation.


PROMOTING CULTURAL SENSITIVITY/REFLEXIVITY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES