

# CREATING PERSPECTIVES THROUGH EDUCATION: HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT TO REFUGEES IN EUROPE

DAAD, EUROPEAN SEMINAR BRUSSELS 2016-05-11

## INITIATIVES OF MALMOE UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

Patricia Staaf,  
Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning,  
Malmö University

[patricia.staaf@mah.se](mailto:patricia.staaf@mah.se)

# MALMÖ UNIVERSITY & THE CITY OF MALMÖ

- Founded in 1998
- 24 400 students, 1 800 employees
- Five multidisciplinary faculties
- Offers 100 programmes and 350 single courses. 20 programmes taught in English

- Sweden's third biggest city with a population of around 315,000.
- Culturally diverse city with 170 nationalities.
- Average age group is 36 years.

- 2/3 of Malmö University's students are female
- 1/3 of the students have a foreign background
- 2/3 of the students are first generation academics
- Core values:  
Diversity, Creativity, Quality & Commitment to the community



In the population group 25-64 years, 46% of Malmö residents have a higher education.

Previously a traditional industrial city, now characterised by entrepreneurship and a skilled workforce.

Linked with Copenhagen and the rest of Europe via the Öresund Bridge.



# A UNIVERSITY PRIORITY

One of four prioritised areas for 2016 is to develop the global attraction of Malmö University by increasing the diversity among the staff and by “aiming at recognizing foreign academics’ competence”.

To do this we build on existing structures such as “the students lifecycle”.

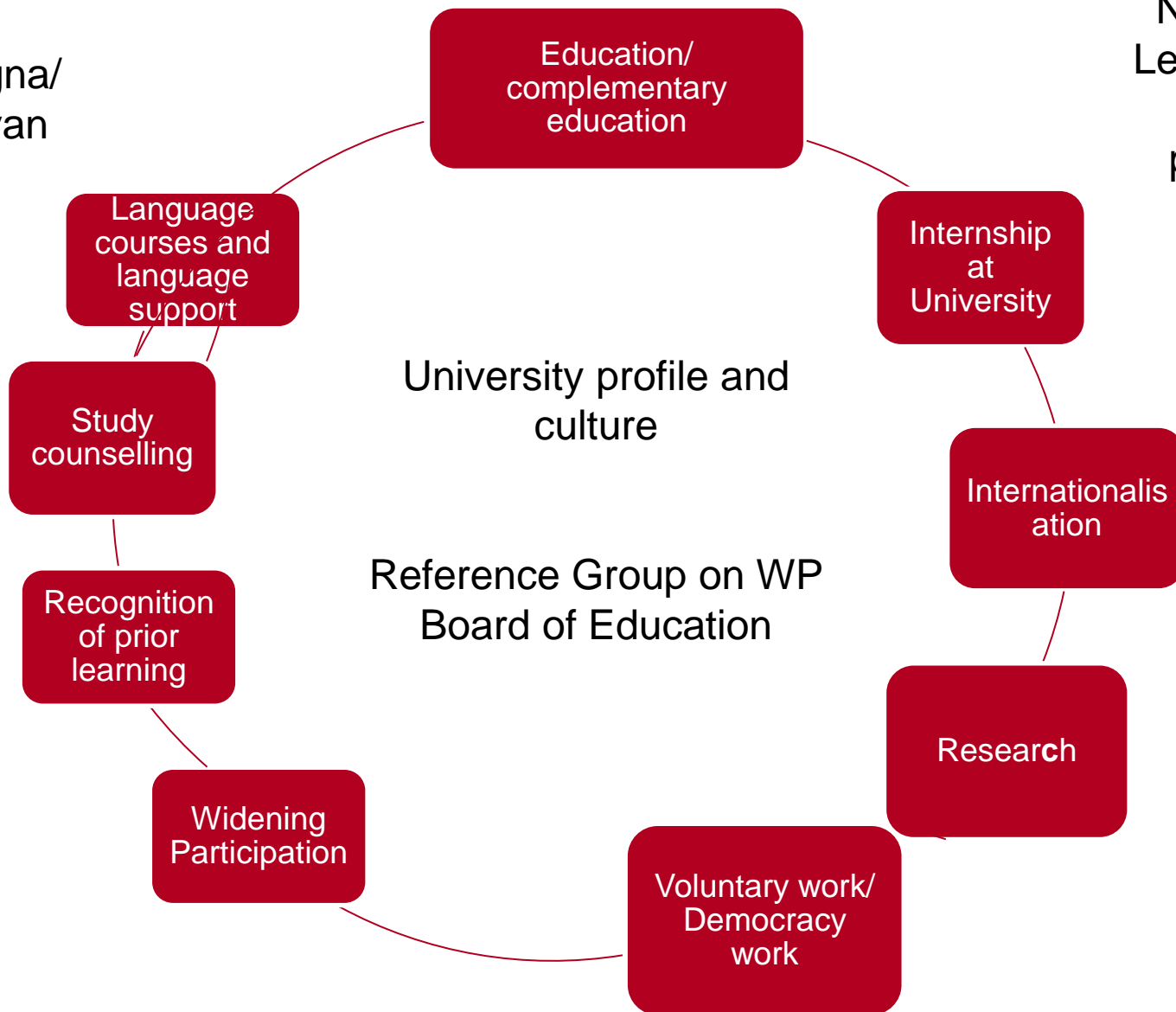
A special task has been formulated around foreign academics and connected to the work around Widening Participation and Inclusion

A new role as Pro-vice Chancellor for Global Engagement 2017

# AN OVER-ALL PERSPECTIVE

EU  
Bologna/  
Yerevan

National  
Legislation  
and  
politics



# EDUCATION

## Language courses

- From beginners to required level, language test,
- Tailor-made courses: Swedish for pedagogues

## Regular education

- Refugees are accepted to full program/course or to later part of programs
- LOOCs
- Discussions on how to include themes as democracy and values in all educations

# COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION – REGULAR OR CONTRACT EDUCATION

- Validation and assessment
- Recognition of prior learning incl. competences, skills and experiences
- "Fill the gap": Add only what's needed to reach the identified target in the new context
- Individual plans of study
- Work together with the employers for workplace education  
Teachers, Administrators, Engineers
- Short track: complimentary teacher education in Arabic and Swedish
- Completion must mean various thing

# COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES - NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

- Simplify for the individual: “one-stop-shop”
- Complement each other rather than compete
- Specialization
- Learn from each other
- Support and shared responsibilities
- Joint development projects:



# COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES

**The Swedish Migration Board, the County Administrative Board, The Employment services, Municipalities, NGOs**

- To be involved early in the establishment process
- Swedish for immigrants for Academics at universities
- Validation of different education, at different levels, can occur in parallel
- Special funding/additional places
- Local dialogues
- Mapping of the integration processes



**– an initiative from students and staff at Malmö University to use the power of higher education and research in support of human rights and refugees in the world.**

- Fundraising
- Voluntary work
- Mentoring, "meet a colleague"
- Open house for unaccompanied minors
- Language café
- Open lectures and seminars
- Scholars at risk (a scholar from Syria 2016)

# CHALLENGES

- Incentives and funding
- Legislation and regulations
- Flexibility
- Language
- Time
- Corporation with other authorities
- Information about the newly arrived
  
- Diversity as such or competences?
- Long term and regular mission
  - not based on enthusiasts, projects and procurement

The role of the University!



# INCENTIVES: QUALITY, WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

- A diverse student population is a quality factor for the education
- Refugees and immigrants contribute with international perspectives, experiences and networks
- Swedish students who don't take part in exchange programs benefit from their experiences

Democracy, Human rights and Economics