“In Asia, For the World”: Establishing the Liberal Arts Abroad

Trisha Craig
Dean, International and Professional Experience
Yale-NUS College
Establishing Liberal Arts Institutions Abroad

- Growth of liberal arts institutions and programs in parts of world where the model is relatively unknown
- Different modalities
  - Branch campuses
  - Programs within established institutions
  - Autonomous College – Yale-NUS model
- Yale-NUS: A community of learning, founded by two great universities, in Asia, for the world
Why the interest?

- Traditional institutions
  - Extend liberal education in the world
  - Maintain relevance
- Host countries
  - State developmentalist projects
  - Economic rationale
  - Singapore: very consistent with its industrial model
Globalizing ≠ importing

- Yale-NUS curriculum not imported from Yale
- Start with question: What should a young person in the 21st know?
- Robust Common Curriculum
- East and West in dialogue
- Very international student body
Challenges

• Broader acceptance of model
  • Labor market
• Creating global citizens
• Impact on home and partner institutions
  • What should we be measuring?
Cultural Immersion

- If you are going abroad or to a new (for you) country, it’s not just about the specific opportunity
- Look around – how is the society organized? What is surprising to you? Think about your reactions to ‘strangeness’: how do you make the strange familiar and the familiar strange