
“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 \neq 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