

WHO ARE THE PLAYERS IN ACADEMIC GLOBALIZATION?

Lina Safronova and Stuart Umpleby
School of Business
The George Washington University
Washington, DC

Although universities continue to operate for budget purposes as separate entities, for academics there is now one worldwide university. Professors can co-author papers with colleagues in other countries via the internet and meet to plan research activities during attendance at international conferences. Through distance education instructors and students can be located in any country. Driven by a globalizing world the number of exchange programs, cooperative degree programs, site visits, and one or two week training programs for faculty members or students is increasing rapidly. Who are the players in the new game of academic globalization? What are their goals and interests? This paper describes the motivations of faculty members and administrators in public and private universities in developed and less developed countries around the world. Stages in the evolution of international collaboration among universities will be described as well as some thoughts on likely directions in the future.