

# DESIGNING EFFECTIVE ORIENTATION PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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# OUR SESSION TODAY

- Introductions
- Rationale
- Exercise
- Conceptual framework
- Case study

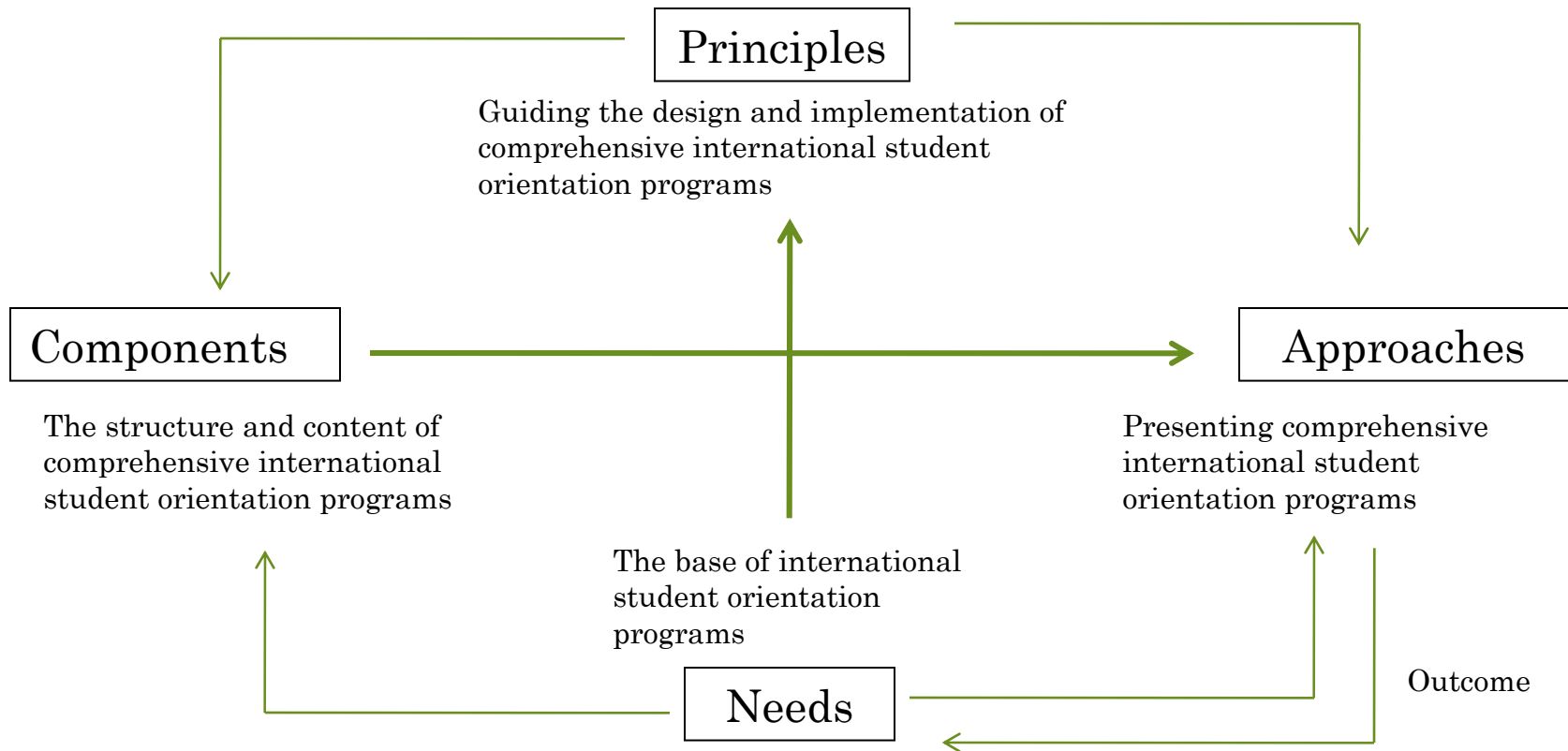


# INTRODUCTION

- Drawing upon existing literature and work done by Meyer - present a conceptual framework for the effective design of
  - ISOP
    - NEEDS
    - PRINCIPLES
    - COMPONENTS
    - APPROACHES



# RELATIONSHIP DIAGRAM



# NEEDS

- Cross-Cultural Adjustment
- Adjustment to Educational System
- Enhancing English-Language Proficiency
- Establishing Interpersonal Relationships and Social Support Networks
- Maintaining Physical and Psychological Well-being
- Managing Finances
- Knowing Immigration Regulations



# PRINCIPLES

- Meeting International Students' Needs
- Definite Purpose
- Theory Guiding Orientation Practice
- Facilitating Learning and Helping Student Learn How to Learn
- Promoting Intercultural Learning and Cross-Cultural Adjustment
- Cultural and Language Sensitivity
- Collaboration
- Orientation Program Followed by Assessment



# COMPONENTS

- Structure of Comprehensive International Students Orientation Programs
  - Pre-departure orientation
  - Arrival orientation
  - On-going orientation
  - Returning orientation



# COMPONENTS - CONTINUED

- Contents of Comprehensive International Students Orientation Programs
  - Basic Needs
  - Cultural and Social Adjustment
  - Educational adjustment
  - Immigration regulations
  - Physical and Psychological Well-being



# APPROACHES

- Web Posting
- Networking with Current Experienced International Student
- Networking with Current Experienced Domestic Students
- Networking with Local Community
- Cultural Coffee Hours
- Role-Playing
- Documentary Film
- International Speaker
- Academic and Social Workshop



# Orientation by Omission

Gender, sexuality, racism, religion...



UNIVERSITY OF  
COPENHAGEN



SLU

Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences



- *Knowing your context and what is important to your institution*



# HANDBOOK OF GOOD PRACTICE IN THE ACADEMIC AND PASTORAL CARE OF INTERNATIONAL MASTER STUDENTS

- do international Master degree student have special needs?
- how should cultural diversity be recognised?



# WHEN DOES THE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME START?

- Acceptance letter
- Welcoming package
- Arrival



# WELCOMING PACKAGE

- Information on living and studying
- Practical information
- Information about orientation programme
- Travelling to the host university
- Additional travel information (bus/trains)
- Maps
- General information about the university
- Information about public services
- Information about the Buddy system (if any)



# ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

- Staff involved
- Finances
- Student group
- Credits
- Content



# ORIENTATION PROGRAMME – SLU

## *Day 1*

- Welcome to SLU
- Introduction to Sweden and Uppsala
- A cultural reflection
- Presentation of each Master Program

## *Day 2*

- Introduction to the computer system
- Introduction to the library
- Guided tour of the campus

## *Day 3*

- Information about Uppsala
- Students right and obligations
- Presentation, information and registration at the Student Union



# ORIENTATION PROGRAMME – LIFE

- Welcome to Life
- Practical Info
- The culture meeting
- Computer Info
- Guided tour in city and on campus
- Library Intro
- Intercultural Communication
- Academic Writing
- Academic Culture



# ORIENTATION PROGRAMME – GENT

- A tour of Flanders
- Introduction to the Dutch language
- Guided city walk in Gent
- The urban roots of Medieval Europe
- Guided visit to SMAK
- The Media of Flanders
- The socio-economic history of Belgium
- Belgian gastronomy
- The Flemish writer Louis Paul Boon
- The film "Daens", based on the book by Boon
- Country planning in the Low Countries
- The Flemish landscape from above
- Flemish Polyphony
- The state of Belgium
- The Flemish Economy
- Excursion to the countryside northwest of Gent



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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