



ARCADIA UNIVERSITY
THE COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

SCOTLAND
Program Review
2012

Executive Summary

The College Of Global Studies Program Review: Scotland Programs On-Site Review: 21-27 April 2012

Following the experience in Spain, the review of the Edinburgh Center and Scottish programs took place in April of 2012. Considering the previous group's recommendations, the review committee was reduced to six individuals, although the ratio of The College, Arcadia University and external representation was maintained.

Prior to the site review, phone conference calls were held among the committee to provide briefings on the method and expectations. Additionally the self-report and supporting data materials were provided earlier in the semester cycle in order to permit the committee a more thorough examination of the materials.

Without direct influence over the curriculum and student life, the program review committee was presented with the question of whether the program review standards were the appropriate tool to use when reviewing institutions and programs of this type. There was also the additional cultural element of U.S. educators arriving at the University of Edinburgh to review the literature curriculum; care had to be taken to be sensitive to, and culturally aware of, the issues that review posed.

The College recognizes the inherent challenge associated with appearing to be reviewing another institution for quality. While this was not the intention of this process, particular care needed to be taken in order to avoid the appearance or substance of this potential problem.

As a result, a critical strategic decision was made very early in the review process that has become part of the guiding principles of our program review: the standards, guided by institutional mission and goals are in place to review the programs of that institution, and no other. In essence, the program review is conceived and written within the context of the Arcadia University mission and The College of Global Studies' goals, and therefore can only be applied as it relates to Arcadia University's mission and goals. The standards, in and of themselves, are potentially transferable and usable as a tool to other institutions and programs, but they would require the same type of examination and self-report.

Overview of Findings

Overall, the review committee found the quality of each program to be exceptional. Existing integrated programs at affiliated institutions offer a wide breadth and depth of disciplines and support services. The Edinburgh Center Director is highly qualified, dedicated and well connected in academic circles; his leadership in developing new center academic programming has showed promise for increased student participation and visibility for Arcadia University. New center offices at the University of Edinburgh campus are in the final stages of renovation and will allow for program expansion. Facilities at other institutions were appropriate to the needs of students and programs; faculty and staff at affiliated institutions were notable for their dedication to student well-being and success.

The review committee identified two broad themes that capture many of the individual recommendations listed within the 14 standards.

1. Strategic Goals of the Edinburgh Center
2. Staffing and Leadership