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Surfing the Wave of Higher Education Institutions Internationalization: A Systematic Review

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - NECE- Research Unit in Business Science.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Preliminary searches.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 09 February 2024 and was last updated on 09 February 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective Research question: What are the main strategies used in the Higher Education Institutions internationalization process?

The aim of this review is:

- (i) Carry out a systematic review of strategies for the internationalization process of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs);
- (ii) Provide governments and HEI managers with greater knowledge on the topic, so that they can be successful in implementing and surfing the Wave of internationalization of HEIs and benefit from this demanding process.

Rationale Lack of a basis or strategic guidance for HEIs during the internationalization process and the lack of a systematic review of the literature on this topic.

Condition being studied Not applicable.

METHODS

Search strategy On January 30, 2024, we conducted an extensive literature retrieval. Two bibliographic databases, including ISI Web of Science (WoS) and SCOPUS, were systematically searched to retrieve potential literature. The search terms were developed based on three concepts: (1) strategies, (2) internationalization, (3) higher education institutions. Within each concept, we used the Boolean operators AND or OR. A search of the SCOPUS database is as follows: (TITLE-ABS-KEY (strateg* AND (internationalization OR internationalisation) AND (universit* OR "high* education" OR "academic institution*")) AND TITLE (universit* OR "high* education" OR "academic institution*") AND NOT TITLE-ABS-KEY ("systematic review" OR "Systematic literature review")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) . In the WoS database we used the Core Collection (All), with the following search:

Topic: (strateg* AND (internationalization OR internationalisation) AND (universit* OR "high* education" OR "academic institution*")
 And Title: (universit* OR "high* education" OR "academic institution*")
 And not all fields ("systematic review" OR "Systematic literature review")
 Refined By: Document Types: Article. Languages: English.

Participant or population Managers, students, teachers and other stakeholders in HEIs.

Intervention Not applicable.

Comparator Not applicable.

Study designs to be included Qualitative and quantitative studies.

Eligibility criteria Studies included: (1) Primary studies relevant to our research topic; (2) Studies in the context of HEIs; and, (3) Articles writing in English. Excluded studies: (1) Letters, meeting abstracts, theses, media reports, content feeds; (2) Articles that do not focus on HEIs Internationalization; (3) Conference papers and literature reviews; and, (4) Articles not present in the Academic Journal Guide of the Chartered Association of Business Schools (AJG, 2021).

Information sources Databases: SCOPUS, ISI Web of Science (WoS).

Main outcome(s) This review will allow the identification of the strategies used in the HEI internationalization process. This will help governments and managers to best implement the internationalization of HEIs, with an adequate strategic basis or guidance, without compromising the quality of teaching.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis The removal of duplicate literature was supported by the RStudio software, with subsequent manual checking by two researchers. To guarantee the quality of the studies contained in the RSL, those present in the Academic Journal Guide of the Chartered Association of Business Schools (AJG, 2021) were selected. A screening phase is carried out based on eligibility criteria. Then, the articles will undergo a content analysis. The reasons for any exclusions are then recorded after reviewing the full text (full articles that, even after initial screening, do not have a focus on HEIs Internationalization or are a systematic review). The search results and the study selection process will be reported in the final systematic review and

presented in the PRISMA flow diagram. After the entire process, all the data is recorded and exported in Excel format.

Strategy of data synthesis A content analysis will be performed to obtain data and evidence from the literature included. The studies will be analyzed according to the PRISMA methodology adapted from Liberati et al. (2009). The main actors involved, the geographic location where each study is based, the sources of information, the form of investigation, the processing of data and the predominant themes will be investigated. As a complement, the VOSviewer software will be used for bibliometric analysis.

Subgroup analysis Use of figures extracted from analyzes of the VOSviewer software. The analyzes provide a graphical view of the interconnection of key terms in documents, co-authorship network of country and authors, among others. The tables and figures will present the data extracted for each extraction category, followed by a detailed qualitative descriptive analysis.

Sensitivity analysis Use of PRISMA 2020 expanded checklist as a guiding matrix for creating a quality RSL. PRISMA flow diagram to demonstrate all stages of inclusion and exclusion of articles contained in the RSL. Use of VOS viewer (version 1.6.17) for bibliometric analysis of studies.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Brazil and Portugal.

Keywords Internationalization; Higher Education Institutions; Strategy.

Dissemination plans Publication in peer-reviewed journals and conferences.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Alba Carvalho - Co-first author of the protocol who drafted the protocol and led and provided feedback for the screenings and development of the research question, research strategy, eligibility criteria, risk of bias assessment strategy, and data extraction and analysis, will draft the manuscript.

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Author 2 - João Ferreira - Co-first author of the protocol who drafted the protocol and provided feedback for screening and developing the research question, search strategy, eligibility criteria, data extraction, and presentation plans, will draft the manuscript.

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