

## **Challenges of Internationalisation in Australian Universities by Chika Anyanwu**

### **Abstract**

The Federal Government funding cuts since the 1990s have forced many (if not all) Australian universities to find alternative means to subsidise such shortfalls, one of these being increased international enrolment. One of the consequences of this new economic direction is the influx of international students with new kinds of expectations and overwhelmed academic and administrative staff who have not fully appreciated or understood the full import of such dramatic academic cultural shift.

Our research is geared towards identifying challenges of international programs as well as initiating strategies for addressing them. The focus is on the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. To achieve this the research tries to identify current issues confronting international programs such as: resources available to international students as motivating factors in their choice of institutions or countries; quality assurance strategies implemented by institutions aimed at balancing growth in international enrolment with growth in program delivery in order to ensure that the institution's academic standards and research output are maintained; cultural awareness programs instituted to educate staff and students on current global cultural sensitivities and an appreciation of diversity.

The research balances G-08 universities with universities of technology in Australia because of their traditional pedagogical differences in approaching innovative and entrepreneurial ventures like internationalisation. It also uses one non-G08 and Unitech institution as a research control. The methodology used is anonymous focus group sessions with academic staff members who have international students in their programs, undergraduate and postgraduate international students, undergraduate and postgraduate domestic students, support staff of international students' language programs and International program administrators.

### **Dr Chika Anyanwu's Brief Bio.**

Chika sees himself as a cultural fruit salad with many years of global teaching and research. He is currently the Head of Media Discipline at the University of Adelaide. Prior to this he was the Coordinator of Mass Communications at Curtin University of Technology, Perth. He also established and headed the Media Arts program of the University of Papua New Guinea in the early 1990s. He has taught at the Universities of Ibadan and Sokoto in Nigeria and Flinders University of South Australia. His academic background cuts across many areas of the media, with a First Class Honours in Theatre Arts, an MA in Television, a PhD in Cinema and a Graduate Business Qualification in Leadership and Management. His research cut across many fields from Indigenous Media, Media Policy and Law, New Media Technology, Creative Industries to Multiculturalism. His research and publications cut across such diverse areas as Internationalisation, New Technology and Education, New Media Technology and Society, Media of the Developing World and Creative Industries.