

## **Addressing the exchange imbalance: Methods for inbound and outbound practitioners**

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'Imbalance' in student exchange is a bit of a dirty word. It means that excited local students sometimes cannot go to their desired destination and students overseas cannot come the other way. Addressing the question of imbalance is the key to harmonious exchange relationships around the world and many happy students!

Different institutions have very different attitudes to exchange imbalances, from those who are rigorous and methodical in maintaining the balance to those for whom imbalance is not considered an issue. Either way, it is in every institution's interest to keep exchange balances in mind and to ensure, as much as is possible, that they are kept in check. Where an imbalance exists there are essentially there are two sides to the equation – is it caused by too many students going out, or too many students coming in?

Over the past 18 months, Macquarie University in Australia has been working towards solving the imbalance equation with some of the worst imbalances. The initiative has had a number of significant successes, which have seen a dramatic turnaround in both inbound and outbound imbalances. This, in turn, has contributed to significant increases in inbound and outbound mobility.

The session will be structured as follows to answer some of the critical questions in identifying causes of imbalances and, most importantly, finding the right solutions.

1. Causes of exchange imbalances
2. Addressing the imbalance: outbound mobility solutions
3. Addressing the imbalance: inbound mobility solutions
4. General solutions to exchange imbalances: faculty support, resourcing and special initiatives