

# Internationalization of Portuguese Academia: the impact on academic engagement and collaboration with society

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**FIGURE 1**  
Dimensions of academic engagement.

The paper explores how academic internationalization affects engagement, emphasizing research over education practices (Table 1). Using 2019 APIKS survey data from Portuguese academics, the findings confirm the positive effects of embracing internationalization practices on knowledge transfer and engagement with society. In this regard, participation in research collaboration or international-funded projects redirects the research focus towards addressing complex societal issues that require a multi and transdisciplinary perspective.

However, the benefits of internationalization on academic engagement would dry up if linkages with local partners and institutions were not promoted and established. Moreover, high pressure on publishing internationally to improve scientific productivity may deviate the research agenda towards topics less related to regional and local demands.

This study has some policy implications. Policymakers should consider internationalization as a transversal strategy for all universities' missions, acknowledging its capacity to enhance the creation and dissemination of knowledge. In this sense, academics more international-

oriented in research activities may contribute to bridging global sources of knowledge with local needs, connecting the local to the global. This is particularly relevant in the Portuguese context, considered a semi-peripheral country, in order to bridge the gap with other European member states. Furthermore, given the positive effects on academic engagement, this study highlights the need to strengthen institutional policies that encourage the internationalization of research. Policymakers should also pay attention to the role of these two dimensions in academic career development.

On the one hand, encouraging faculty members to engage in both internationalization practices and academic engagement activities may increase the academic workload, considering the several demands to which the academics are exposed. On the other hand, we recommend balancing the importance placed on international scientific publications with the role of academic engagement for career progression purposes. In this regard, HE policies should encourage diversified career paths and increased knowledge transfer to society to enhance both the economy and the knowledge-based society.

Formal research collaboration	Informal dissemination of knowledge	Commercialization of knowledge	Teaching-related activities
Consultancy	Evaluation (of policies and developments of companies, governments, regions, countries, etc.)	Patenting and licensing	Curriculum development for external agencies
Contract Research	Writing publications for a broader range of readers	Spin-off/Start-up creation	Supervision of student internships and/or student
	Participation in external board(s) and committee(s)	Use of infrastructures and (technical) equipment	Joint supervision with industry
	Public lectures and speeches	Test and construct prototypes	Executive, contract tailor-made programs and courses
	Volunteer-based work/consultancy in an honorary capacity	Work in research laboratory, science incubator organization, and/or science park	