



The Global **Scholarship** Landscape: A Strategic Funding Analysis



Executive Summary

In 2025, the internationalization of higher education is at a critical juncture in some regions of the world. Universities face intensified financial pressures and a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape that is fundamentally impacting global engagement. Sustainable internationalization now demands sophisticated and diversified financial strategies.

This report analyzes the complex ecosystem of global funding–spanning government programs, corporate partnerships, philanthropic foundations, multilateral development banks, and the crucial role of self-funded students.

Key Trends and Strategic Imperatives:

- The Politicization of Education Policy: Major education hubs (U.S., UK, Canada, Australia, Netherlands) are implementing restrictive visa policies and caps in response to domestic pressures, creating unprecedented volatility in student flows. Simultaneously, emerging players (China, Japan, and Korea) are aggressively expanding their influence through strategic scholarships.
- The Shift from Aid to Investment: Corporate and government sponsors are increasingly moving away from broad philanthropy toward targeted investments. Funding is increasingly tied to specific R&D priorities (AI, Quantum, Sustainability), talent pipeline development, and measurable economic or geopolitical outcomes.
- The Dominance of the Self-Funded Student: Representing the largest financial contribution to global higher education, the 7 million self-funded students are the decisive force in the sector. Universities must transition from treating them as revenue sources to recognizing them as strategic partners.
- The Need for Risk Diversification: Over-reliance on single countries or funding streams exposes institutions to severe risk. A geographically balanced recruitment footprint and diversified funding sources are essential for resilience.

To thrive, universities must embed internationalization into their long-term financial architecture. The consulting firm Societās Partnerships helps institutions navigate this complexity by creating successful joint programs with funders, developing mechanisms for international student success, and building balanced recruitment plans (page 18). These strategies directly enhance an institution's financial prospects while amplifying its capacity for global engagement.

Table of contents

Executive Summary	2
The Global Scholarship Landscape: A Strategic Funding Analysis for Higher Education	4
Scholarship Programs: Strategic Tools for Global Impact	4
Government Scholarship Programs	5
Scholarship Program Examples	6
European Union	6
Germany	7
China	7
Japan	7
France	7
The Netherlands	8
The United States	8
The United Kingdom	8
Australia	8
Canada	9
Sweden	9
South Korea	9
Government Scholarship Programs: Countries (selected)	10
Corporate, Philanthropy and Multilateral Development Banks	11
The Overlooked Force: Self-Funded International Students	14
Global Higher Education Funding Ecosystem: Drivers & Objectives	15
Strategic Road Map for Financing the Internationalisation of Higher Education	16
Conclusion	17
The Societās Partnerships' Approach	18
Reference	19

The Global Scholarship Landscape: A Strategic

Funding Analysis for Higher Education

In an era where universities are navigating significant financial headwinds and intense global competition, securing sustainable funding for internationalization is paramount. Global engagement is a cornerstone of the modern university, positioning institutions as catalysts for innovation. Universities foster this through a variety of initiatives, yet funding consistently emerges as the most critical challenge.

Scholarships serve as vital engines. Millions of students and faculty participate in global education initiatives and programs shaping the very fabric of the higher education sector. These investments drive a worldwide movement of higher education capital and talent, directly influencing the success of universities' internationalization efforts. For university leaders and senior international officers, understanding this dynamic is essential.

This analysis explores the diverse approaches of key scholarship sponsors—governments, corporations, philanthropic foundations, and multilateral development banks—and identifies critical trends shaping the landscape. More importantly, it offers strategic recommendations for universities to navigate this complex ecosystem, contributing with sustainable financial approaches in support of internationalization of higher education.

Scholarship Programs: Strategic Tools for Global Impact

Global scholarship programs offer more than just financial aid; they are sophisticated tools for sponsors to achieve strategic objectives. From degree programs, specialized training to global research collaborations, and more. These scholarships offer unique opportunities to equip students and faculty members with the knowledge, networks, and influence to drive positive changes both domestically and internationally. These international experiences greatly accelerate the ability of universities to foster talent, advance global knowledge, and spark innovation. In recent years, sponsors increasingly provide additional support, beyond tuition and living expenses, in an effort to inject valuable training before, during, and after participants undertake a university program. While global scholarship trends have evolved over the decades, their orientation and intent remain consistent. To influence the creation of expertise ready to drive change. Today, scholarship programs have become more complex, accessible, and diverse. They are created to respond to specific needs beyond the direct benefit of the recipient.

Government Scholarship Programs

Governments play a crucial role in funding global scholarships and international research grants worth billions of dollars. A significant portion of these funds is reinvested in their domestic economies, making it a national tool for competitiveness. Scholarships serve as a tool of soft power for high-income nations with robust higher education systems, fostering geopolitical influence and economic competitiveness by attracting global talent, which boosts key emerging industries.

For countries that primarily send their higher education students abroad, scholarships provide an opportunity to enhance their global standing, etc. Over 50 countries offer scholarships to attract talent, train students abroad, and establish new international partnerships, reflecting the global competition for intellectual capital, innovation, and groundbreaking discoveries. In addition, the global scholarship landscape is shifting due to the rise of strong players (such as China, the Middle East, etc.) and the limitations of traditional education hubs (restrictive visa policies, housing crisis, etc., in the U.S., UK, Canada, and Australia, among others). This new dynamic development in global higher education and research is making more diverse the availability of players in the global scholarship landscape, ultimately impacting how universities navigate funding opportunities in their pursuit of internationalization goals.

All governments' international higher education strategies are driven by a combination of key priorities. These objectives include driving economic growth and competitiveness, attracting and retaining global talent, and increasing the diversity and volume of international student mobility. Furthermore, nations use international education to strengthen diplomacy and soft power while also enhancing the quality and global reputation of their institutions.



Scholarship Program Examples

Government scholarships are indispensable for university leaders and senior international officers aiming to elevate their institutions' global profile. These programs vary significantly in scope and intent. Understanding these differences and navigating these challenges enables universities to leverage government scholarships. While national strategies vary, several clear trends are emerging in how governments leverage international higher education funding in 2025:

- The Pivot to Domestic Priorities: There is a clear shift in the Global North toward prioritizing
 domestic stability over international growth. In Canada, Australia, the UK, and the Netherlands,
 concerns over housing, migration, and service pressures have led to restrictive government
 policies, caps on international students, and budget cuts, fundamentally challenging the financial
 models of their universities.
- 2. Funding as Foreign policy: Global scholarships are key tools of foreign policy, used to project soft power and build strategic networks. Countries advance their interests by aligning funding with specific goals, whether it's supporting economic projects like China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), securing regional influence like Australia's focus on the Indo-Pacific, or promoting global values like Sweden's alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 3. The Research and Innovation Arms Race: Beyond mobility scholarships, significant capital is being deployed to secure leadership in strategic sectors. This is evident in the multi-billion-dollar research funds managed by China's NSFC and the EU's Horizon Europe program, signaling that research collaboration is as critical as student mobility.
- 4. Targeted Talent Acquisition: High-income nations facing demographic challenges are scaling investments to attract and retain specific global talent needed to fuel their innovation economies.

Examples of global scholarship programs include:

European Union

- Strategic Focus: Fostering a shared European identity, supporting mobility (students, staff, trainees), and building collaborative research networks across 33 countries.
- Key Initiatives & Funding:
 - Erasmus+: €26.2 billion budget (2021-2027). Has enabled mobility for over 14 million individuals since its inception.
 - Horizon Europe: €95.5 billion budget (2021-2027), distributed through competitive grants to foster extensive international research and innovation collaboration among researchers and institutions from over 40 countries.

Germany

- Strategic Focus: Bolstering Germany's role as a global leader through comprehensive support for international academic exchange and university partnerships.
- Key Initiatives & Funding: The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) allocates €752.8 million annually, supporting over 100,000 individuals ranging from individual scholarships to large-scale collaborations.

China

- Strategic Focus: Driving geopolitical influence (Belt and Road Initiative), advancing domestic innovation, and facilitating significant two-way mobility.
- Key Initiatives & Funding:
 - China Scholarship Council (CSC): Estimated annual investment >\$469 million; supports ~130,000 students annually (50% inbound/50% outbound). Includes the "Silk Road Scholarship" (10,000 students annually).
 - National Natural Science Foundation (NSFC): \$4.48 billion budget driving research collaboration

Japan

- Strategic Focus: Countering demographic decline, strengthening the innovation economy, and increasing outbound student exchange.
- Key Initiatives & Funding:
 - MEXT: Aims for 400,000 inbound students by 2033; supports ~4,500 inbound international students across various disciplines.
 - Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS): is a major funding body in Japan that provides funding for international research fellowships and other collaborative programs.

France

- Strategic Focus: Bolstering industrial and technological leadership across ten strategic sectors through the "France 2030" plan.
- Key Initiatives & Funding:
 - France 2030: A €54 billion investment plan, which will inevitably provide funding for a variety of objectives, international research collaborations being an indirect target.
 - Eiffel France Excellence Scholarship (2025) and Bienvenue en France initiative: 433 scholarships will be awarded and 500,000 students will be attracted to France by 2027.

The Netherlands

- Strategic Focus: adjusting its international student policy to balance the benefits of attracting talent against the strain on housing and universities. ("Balanced Internationalization" Act WIB).
- Key Initiatives & Funding: Formerly relied on the Orange Knowledge Programme (€260 million, 10,000 scholarships). The Dutch Research Council (NWO) historically funded global partnerships.
- Challenges & Outlook: Severe budget cuts (€1.2 billion reduction to the sector, with €300 million cut from the international student budget).

The United States

- Strategic Focus: Fostering public diplomacy, supporting students with financial need, and funding international research collaborations.
- Key Initiatives & Funding:
 - Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA): \$741 million annually (FY2024). Funds Fulbright (~8,000 participants) and Gilman Scholarships (~3,500 participants in 2025).
 - NSF and NIH: Estimated >\$200 million for international research collaborations and foreign grants.
 - Challenges & Outlook: Tightened visa policies and geopolitical tensions; potential 15% drop in enrollment projected for 2025; 2025 funding freeze affecting Fulbright.

The United Kingdom

- Strategic Focus: Fostering soft power, supporting emerging leaders, and funding international research partnerships post-Brexit.
- Key Initiatives & Funding:
 - Chevening: £59 million budget; ~1,400 leaders annually.
 - Commonwealth Scholarships: £28 million budget; ~670 awards annually.
 - UKRI International Science Partnerships Fund: £337 million for global collaborations.
- Challenges & Outlook: Post-Brexit visa policies reduced EU students by ~50%; 31% drop in overall sponsored study visas (2023-2024) due to stricter rules and shortened post-study work periods.

Australia

- Strategic Focus: Using international education as a tool of foreign policy and economic engagement, primarily in the Indo-Pacific.
- Key Initiatives & Funding: Australia Awards: Budget of \$348.6 million (2024-25) to build enduring relationships.

• Challenges & Outlook: Significant headwinds due to record net migration and housing pressure. Government implemented stricter regulations (higher financial proof, "Genuine Student" test).

Canada

- Strategic Focus: A decentralized approach involving key federal bodies (Global Affairs, Tri-agencies, IDRC, Mitacs) to foster international research collaboration, support student mobility, and attract global talent under the International Education Strategy (2019-2024).
- Key Initiatives & Funding: The International Education Strategy allocated \$147.9 million (2019-2024) for key programs. In 2023-24, IDRC invested \$282.8 million in new research, while Mitacs leveraged \$154 million in federal funding for over \$318 million in R&D. The Tri-agencies fund international research collaborations.
- Challenges & Outlook: A two-year cap on new international student permits (effective Jan 2024) has caused a 48% reduction in intake (rather than the planned 35%), creating significant financial and reputational strain on the sector.

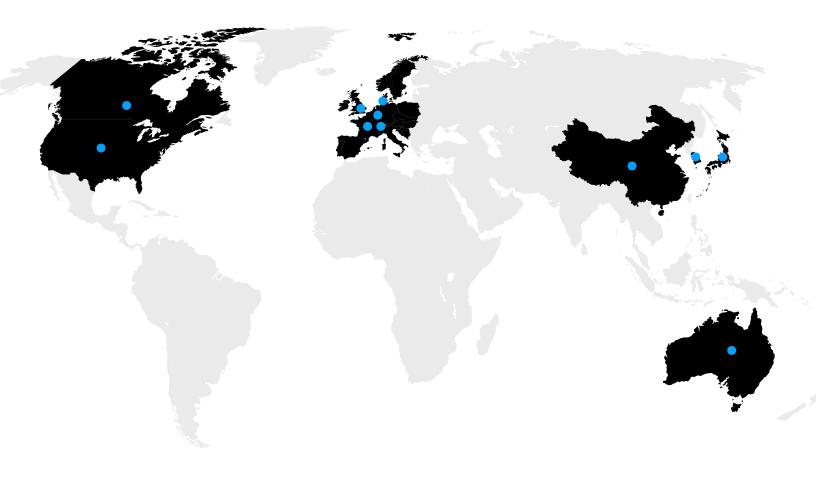
Sweden

- Strategic Focus: Aligning global scholarships and research collaboration with sustainable development (UN 2030 Agenda) and innovation.
- Key Initiatives & Funding:
 - Swedish Institute (SI) Scholarships for Global Professionals: SEK 250 million (€22 million) supporting ~402 leaders in 2025/26 (33 eligible countries).
 - Swedish Research Council: Allocates ~SEK 1.64 billion for ~1,200 international research projects (climate, health), with an increase in 2025 for visiting researchers.
- Challenges & Outlook: Stricter visa policies since 2023, high living costs, limited English-taught undergraduate programs, and migration policies impacting researchers.

South Korea

- Strategic Focus: Enhancing soft power through the "Korean Wave" and driving innovation in strategic sectors (AI, semiconductors).
- Key Initiatives & Funding:
 - Global Korea Scholarship (GKS): KRW 200 billion (\$150 million); expanding to 1,500 recipients in 2025 with new tech tracks and extended post-study stays.
 - National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF): KRW 10.5 trillion (\$7.8 billion) budget in 2025. Information on allocation to international research collaborations isn't available.
- Challenges & Outlook: Visa delays, language barriers, and employment restrictions (e.g., E-7 visa) challenge international talent recruitment and retention.

Government Scholarship Programs: Countries (selected)



This analysis provides a snapshot of global scholarship and international research funding programs in select high-income nations, but many other countries run their own initiatives. The investment figures are estimates due to the complex nature of reporting on internationalization funding.

To explore a comprehensive database of nearly 300 funding sources, visit the Societās Partnerships internationalization funding **dashboard**.

Corporate, Philanthropy and Multilateral Development Banks

The Corporate Pillar

Corporate engagement in international higher education is increasingly characterized not by open-ended philanthropy, but by strategic investments aimed at securing talent pipelines and fostering innovation relevant to specific industries. This reflects a broader trend toward addressing critical skills gaps and aligning academic research with immediate labor market demands. Rather than offering broad scholarships, corporations often establish meticulously designed fellowship programs—particularly at the PhD and postdoctoral levels—targeting exceptional candidates whose research directly supports the companies' R&D priorities. This effectively creates a conduit between elite academic research and corporate innovation labs, representing a long-term investment in human capital and intellectual property.

These strategic partnerships take various forms across different sectors, focusing on specialized talent acquisition, capacity building, and network development. In the technology sector, initiatives like the Google PhD Fellowship target top-tier international students in fields such as AI and data science, ensuring early access to emerging talent and research. Similarly, the Intel Foundation prioritizes diversifying the STEM pipeline, supporting programs for women and underrepresented minorities. In biotechnology, the Amgen Foundation cultivates long-term capacity by supporting hands-on research (e.g., the Amgen Scholars Program) and developing global science education ecosystems, such as the LabXchange platform created with Harvard University. Energy companies like ExxonMobil often support STEM programs and research centers in regions critical to their operations. Furthermore, some global corporations utilize scholarships for broader market development; Banco Santander stands out, having committed over €2 billion and awarded over 630,000 scholarships and grants in the past 25 years, fostering a vast international university network and enhancing brand allegiance across key markets.



The Philanthropic Pillar

The philanthropic sector plays a crucial role in internationalization by investing in future leaders who will drive positive change in their respective fields and communities. This funding includes mentorship, networking opportunities, and specialized leadership training. The focus on leadership is often accompanied by the expectation that scholars will leverage their education and experiences to contribute to the development of their home countries or regions, creating a multiplier effect from the initial philanthropic investment. Unlike corporate sponsors seeking strategic advantage, philanthropic funders are driven by social impact, global understanding, and equity.

Examples include the Rhodes Scholarship and the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Other major philanthropic initiatives use scholarships for broad-based human capital development and public diplomacy. The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program has invested over \$3 billion in education and transitions programs in Africa and aims to award 100,000 scholarships by 2030. It operates through a collaborative network of partner universities and non-profit organizations across Africa, America, and Europe. These partnerships are crucial for delivering a holistic educational experience that combines rigorous academic training with practical skills development and a strong emphasis on ethical leadership. This emphasis on strategic alignment and cross-sector collaboration (with universities, businesses, and community organizations) is a key trend in maximizing the impact of philanthropic investments.

A diverse array of other philanthropic entities plays a crucial role in sponsoring international education and fostering global leadership. These organizations often have specific thematic or regional focuses, contributing to the broader landscape of educational philanthropy. For example, the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship (IPS) Fund supports international women pursuing graduate degrees in the U.S. and Canada. The Stephen Young Global Leaders' Scholarship Programme (SYGL) at the University of Strathclyde aims at developing global leaders in society and business. The Rhodes Scholarships enable outstanding students from around the world to study at the University of Oxford. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) provides funding for women pursuing graduate studies, including international projects and community development. Other sponsor organizations include Open Societies, Carnegie, and Conrad Hilton Foundations, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, Jacobs Foundation, and LEGO Foundation. They and many more around the world collectively support internationalization of higher education.

The Multilateral Development Banks

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) provide funding to support the internationalization of higher education primarily as a means of economic development, building human capital in developing nations, and addressing skill shortages. This development-centric mission influences scholarship programs, from candidate selection and study fields to controversial mechanisms like "return-to-home" clauses to mitigate brain drain. Examples of MDBs include the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), among others. MDBs invest in higher education to strengthen the workforce, enhance national innovation systems, and build institutional capacity. Their funding is rarely for broad academic exploration; instead, it is highly targeted to specific fields deemed critical for a country's development, such as science and technology, economics, business management, and public policy. This makes MDB-funded scholarships a direct intervention in the labor markets and policy-making apparatus of their member nations.

For instance, the ADB-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP) exemplifies an MDB-led education initiative. It actively supports and enhances human resource development in the ADB's developing member countries. Each year, the program offers approximately 135 graduate scholarships for study at a network of over 25 designated academic institutions across nine countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Another notable example is the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP). This program aims at empowering professionals from developing countries by providing them with the opportunity to pursue master's degrees in development-related fields at top universities. The program is meticulously designed for individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to their countries' development efforts and possess relevant professional experience.



The Overlooked Force: Self-Funded International Students

While scholarships are tied to specific goals and formal processes, the largest and most consistent source of financing for global higher education comes from self-funded international students. Numbering over 7 million worldwide, this group represents not just a funding stream but a transformative force in shaping the scale, direction, and nature of global academic mobility. Their tuition fees and living expenses sustain universities, inject billions into host economies, and underpin critical areas of institutional growth – from research labs to student services.

At a time of financial strain across the higher education sector, reliance on this group has intensified. Their contributions extend well beyond tuition: they stimulate housing markets, support local businesses, and create demand for skilled jobs in education, technology, and services. In Australia alone, international education – driven overwhelmingly by self-funded students – is worth over AUD 36 billion annually, making it one of the nation's largest exports.

The institutions that thrive will be those that treat these students as strategic partners rather than passive consumers or revenue sources. This means integrating them into research teams, advisory boards, and innovation initiatives; offering tailored academic programs and interdisciplinary pathways; building robust support systems; and designing clear, credible global career pipelines. Strategic alignment with their aspirations will be a differentiator in an increasingly competitive global market.

Yet, this reliance comes with vulnerabilities. Heavy dependence on a small number of sending countries, such as China and India, exposes institutions to sudden policy shifts, geopolitical tensions, or currency fluctuations. Global disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic showed how quickly international student flows can collapse, with lasting impacts on budgets and staffing. Diversifying both source markets and program delivery modes (e.g., hybrid learning, offshore campuses, regional hubs) is essential to building resilience.

Beyond finances, self-funded students are soft power multipliers. They become cultural ambassadors, strengthen diplomatic ties, and open trade and investment channels between nations. Alumni networks of self-funded graduates can be leveraged for research collaboration, industry partnerships, and philanthropic investment back into the institution. In this way, their impact compounds over decades.

Sustaining this benefit demands deliberate strategy. Universities and governments must craft policies that keep them attractive destinations – from post-study work rights to integration into local innovation ecosystems. The next phase of internationalization will depend less on the growth of scholarships and more on the ability to engage, support, and retain these students as long-term stakeholders. Recognizing and reinforcing this relationship is no longer optional – it is a core pillar of modern higher education strategy, central to both institutional competitiveness and national economic vitality.

Global Higher Education Funding Ecosystem: Drivers & Objectives



Government Corporate Philanthropy M. Dev Banks

- Soft Power & Diplomacy
- EconomicCompetitiveness
- Attracting Global Talent
- Domestic Innovation (R&D)
- University Global Reputation

- Talent Pipeline (Strategic Hires)
- R&D Priorities (PhD/ Post-doc)
- Addressing Specific Skills Gaps
- Intellectual Property Development
- Global Competition for Talent

- Leadership Development
- Global Social Impact & Equity
- Fostering Global Understanding
- Human Capital (Broad-based)
- Mission-Aligned Giving

- Economic Development
- Targeted Skill Shortages
- Institutional Capacity Building
- Mitigating Brain Drain
- Policy-Making Apparatus Support

Strategic Road Map for Financing the Internationalisation of Higher Education

In the current climate, universities can no longer approach the financing of internationalization as an opportunistic add-on; it must be embedded into their long-term financial architecture. The institutions best positioned to thrive are those that treat international engagement as a portfolio of interlinked investments—each with distinct revenue streams, risk profiles, and growth potential. The first step is to map the full landscape of funding opportunities. This means going beyond traditional scholarships to identify and actively cultivate relationships with governments, multilateral agencies, philanthropic foundations, corporations, alumni networks, and new forms of private capital. Universities should maintain a live, data-informed funding intelligence dashboard that tracks active programs, emerging donors, and shifting global priorities—ensuring they are early players when new opportunities arise.

A robust funding strategy also demands risk diversification. Relying too heavily on one or two countries for self-funded students exposes universities to geopolitical and economic shocks, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and in recent visa policy changes. Forward-thinking institutions build a geographically balanced recruitment footprint, pairing mature markets with high-growth emerging ones. They also invest in hybrid and transnational education models that allow students to begin studies in their home countries and complete them abroad, reducing dependency on a single flow of in-bound mobility.

Universities must also shift from passively receiving funds to co-creating value with funders. Governments and corporations increasingly expect measurable outcomes, whether in research output, skills development, or societal impact. By designing joint programs that address funders' priorities—such as climate resilience, digital transformation, or public health—universities can secure long-term commitments rather than one-off grants. This model not only improves funding security but positions the institution as a thought leader and problem-solver in the global arena.

Philanthropy remains a vital, often under-leveraged pillar of funding. Here, universities can learn from elite institutions that have cultivated mission-aligned giving cultures. This involves developing targeted campaigns that speak directly to donors' values—be it equity in education, women in STEM, or indigenous knowledge preservation—and integrating those campaigns into the broader internationalization strategy. Donors respond to clarity of vision and proof of impact, so rigorous monitoring, transparent reporting, and visible storytelling are essential.

Self-funded students, who collectively represent the largest single source of financing for international education, require a strategy that treats them as long-term partners, not transactional customers. This means tailoring program portfolios to global market demand, embedding employability into curricula, and ensuring strong academic and social integration. Alumni of these cohorts should be engaged as advocates and mentors, feeding into both recruitment and fundraising pipelines. Their lifetime connection to the university can be a continuous source of revenue, influence, and global reach.

Finally, sustainable funding for internationalization depends on embedding it into institutional governance. Senior leadership should have explicit financial KPIs tied to global engagement, and international officers should be part of financial decision-making bodies—not just recruitment and mobility discussions. Strategic reserves should be earmarked for international initiatives, ensuring that funding does not dry up in periods of fiscal constraint. The most successful universities are those that plan internationalization budgets on a 5–10 year horizon, factoring in demographic shifts, technology adoption, and policy cycles.

By adopting this integrated, forward-looking approach, universities create not only a resilient funding model but a competitive advantage in the global education marketplace—one that can adapt to disruption, seize new opportunities, and continually expand its international footprint.

Conclusion

The global scholarship landscape is a complex, dynamic ecosystem that universities must navigate with strategic foresight to achieve sustainable internationalization. The path forward requires a multipronged financial strategy that moves beyond traditional approaches. By diversifying funding portfolios, aligning initiatives with sponsor objectives, and–critically–prioritizing a robust return on investment for self-funded students, institutions can secure their financial future while amplifying their global influence. Targeted partnerships and the integration of international research collaborations are not just supplementary activities but essential revenue streams that enhance institutional prestige. Ultimately, universities that skillfully leverage both scholarships and self-funded student revenue will not only build financial resilience but will establish themselves as global leaders in higher education. By viewing scholarships as powerful tools for transformative change and by strategically engaging with all funding sources, institutions can secure enduring pathways to internationalization, address global challenges, and cultivate the next generation of global leaders who will shape our world.



The Societās Partnerships' Approach

Societās Partnerships (Panama) offers expert guidance, strategic assessment, and hands-on implementation to support universities in elevating their global profile. Our research- and experience-based approach transforms how institutions navigate funding strategic plans in support of their global objectives. We focus on:

Strategic Partnerships with Global Scholarship Sponsors: We facilitate the design and implementation of joint programs tailored to funders' most critical priorities in line with the unique capabilities and mission of the institution. This model secures sustainable, long-term commitments—positioning your university as a global thought leader and a go-to partner for solving major world challenges.

Building International Students-Centric Partnerships: We help your university build comprehensive strategies that elevate the role of international students as key partners. By focusing on their success on campus and their integration into your institutional fabric, you cultivate a loyal global alumni network that provides lifelong partners.

Diversified & Resilient Recruitment: We guide you in building a geographically balanced recruitment footprint, strategically pairing mature markets with high-growth emerging ones. This method creates a more stable and resilient international student body, reducing dependency on any single region.

Engage with Us



Reference

- 1. Trends Shaping Education 2025: Global trends and the future of education. OECD. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/trends-shaping-education-2025_ee6587fd-en/full-report/global-trends-and-the-future-of-education-in-2025_7358e77a.html.
- 2. Global Higher Education Transformation: The 2025 International Crisis. Boston College International Higher Education. https://ihe.bc.edu/pub/o4qxx5y0. Published June 16, 2025.
- 3. Driving Global Engagement through Strategic Partnerships and Innovation. Terra Dotta. https://www.terradotta.com/driving-global-engagement-through-strategic-partnerships-and-innovation.
- 4. Challenges and strategies for the internationalization of higher education in low-income East African countries. PMC. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9869809/. Published January 23, 2023.
- 5. Government scholarships for international higher education. PMC. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10089380/. Published April 11, 2023.
- 6. International Students. Migration Data Portal. https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/international-students-trends.
- 7. Higher Ed's Talent Imperative. EAB. https://eab.com/resources/research-report/higher-eds-talent-imperative/.
- 8. Internationalization: A Decade of Changes and Challenges. Boston College International Higher Education. https://ejournals.bc.edu/index.php/ihe/article/download/8001/7152/0.
- 9. State Governments Leverage Higher Education in International Engagement. Rockefeller Institute. https://rockinst.org/issue-area/state-governments-leverage-higher-education-international-engagement/.
- 10. How Higher Ed and Employers Can Partner to Power Talent Pipelines. BCG. https://www.bcg.com/publications/2022/bridging-the-talent-gap-by-partnering-with-higher-ed-institutions. Published October 19, 2022.
- 11. Philanthropy in Higher Education. AGB. https://agb.org/trusteeship-article/philanthropy-in-higher-education/.
- 12. Multilateral Development Banks: Overview and Issues for Congress. Congress.gov. https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R41170. Published September 13, 2023.
- $13. What are the key trends in international student mobility? OECD. https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/03/what-are-the-key-trends-in-international-student-mobility_495dcfac/2a423a76-en.pdf.$
- 14. Financially sustainable universities: State of play and strategies for future resilience. EUA. https://www.eua.eu/publications/briefings/financially-sustainable-universities-state-of-play-and-strategies-for-future-resilience.html. Published April 3, 2025.
- 15. International Higher Education Scholarships and Fellowships for Social Justice: A Critical Intervention. IssueLab. https://scholarshipsforchange.issuelab.org/resources/38223/38223.pdf.
- 16. The Impact of Fulbright Scholarships on Global Education. Forward Pathway. https://www.forwardpathway.us/the-impact-of-fulbright-scholarships-on-global-education.
- 17. Education at a Glance 2024. OECD. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/education-at-a-glance-2024_c00cad36-en.html. Published September 10, 2024.
- 18. Internationalization of Higher Education: Current Trends and Future Scenarios. IAU. https://www.iau-aiu.net/IMG/pdf/2024_internationalization_survey_report_digital.pdf.
- 19. Accelerating Global Engagement With Collaboration and Innovation. AACSB. https://www.aacsb.edu/insights/articles/2017/09/accelerating-global-engagement-with-collaboration-and-innovation. Published September 19, 2017.
- 20. Corporate investments in higher education talent pipelines innovation skills gaps. BCG. https://www.bcg.com/publications/2022/bridging-the-talent-gap-by-partnering-with-higher-ed-institutions. Published October 19, 2022.
- 21. Systemic reviews: Financing of higher education internationalisation. ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/378016865_Systemic_reviews_Financing_of_higher_education_internationalisation. Published December 13, 2023.
- 22. The Role of Scholarships in Study Abroad Programs. Taylor & Francis. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09645290701263138.
- 23. Evolution of global scholarship trends. OECD. https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/03/whatare-the-key-trends-in-international-student-mobility_495dcfac/2a423a76-en.pdf.
- 24. How higher education affects corporate human capital investment. ScienceDirect. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1544612324010493.
- 25. Google PhD Fellowship Program. Google Research. https://research.google/programs-and-events/phd-fellowship/.
- 26. Innovation starts here. Intel. https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/company-overview/corporate-responsibility.html.
- 27. The Amgen Foundation Promoting Science Education & Literacy. Amgen Scholars. https://www.amgenscholars.com/.
- 28. ExxonMobil STEM Training Program. ExxonMobil. https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/community/stem.
- 29A. Galán-Muros, V., Chacón, E., & Escribens, M. (2022). Exploring international aid for tertiary education: recent developments and current trends
- 29B. Santander Universities. Santander. https://www.santander.com/en/universities.
- 30. Philanthropic sector internationalization higher education future leaders social impact. SSIR. https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_future_of_higher_education_is_social_impact. Published May 18, 2018.

- 31. Leaders Q&A: The Future of Higher Education Philanthropy. LinkedIn. https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/future-philanthropy-leaders-qa-higher-education-a5krc. Published July 15, 2025.
- 32A. The Role of Co-Creating Value and Its Outcomes in Higher Education. MDPI. https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/12/6724.
- 32B. Internationalization Funding Opportunities. Societās Partnerships. https://www.societaspartnership.com/international-funding-opportunities
- 33. Philanthropy and the Global Economy. Citi Private Bank. https://www.privatebank.citibank.com/newcpb-media/media/documents/insights/Philanthropy-and-global-economy.pdf. Published November 3, 2021.
- 34. The Rhodes Scholarship. Rhodes House. https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/.
- 35. Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Gates Cambridge. https://www.gatescambridge.org/.
- 36. Global Philanthropy Report. Harvard Kennedy School. https://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/2023-09/global_philanthropy_report_final_april_2018.pdf.
- 37. Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. Mastercard Foundation. https://mastercardfdn.org/programs/scholars/.
- 38. A united voice for education: Why philanthropy is stepping up. UNESCO. https://www.unesco.org/sdg4education2030/en/articles/united-voice-education-why-philanthropy-stepping-fourth-international-conference-financing. Published June 26, 2025.
- 39. The Future of International Education: Leadership Perspectives. UC Davis. https://globalaffairs.ucdavis.edu/events/international-education-perspectives.
- 40. Philanthropy's New Agenda: Creating Value. HBR. https://hbr.org/1999/11/philanthropys-new-agenda-creating-value.
- 41. Future Leaders in Education Philanthropy. IEFG. https://iefg.org/fliep/.
- 42A. European Commission. (2021, March 24). Erasmus+: Over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond. European Commission. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326
- 42B. Comprehensive Internationalization Framework. ACE. https://www.acenet.edu/Research-Insights/Pages/Internationalization/CIGE-Model-for-Comprehensive-Internationalization.aspx.
- 43A. European Commission. (2025, June 25). What is Erasmus+? Erasmus+ Programme. https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu
- 43B. International Peace Scholarship Fund. P.E.O. International. https://www.peointernational.org/about-peo-international-peace-scholarship-ips.
- 44A. DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. (2024). Annual Report 2023. Retrieved August 10, 2025, from https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/communication-publications/reports/annual-report/
- 44B. Stephen Young Global Leaders' Scholarship Programme. University of Strathclyde. https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/stephenyounggloballeadersprogramme/.
- 45. The Rhodes Scholarship. Rhodes House. https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/.
- 46. Fellowships & Grants. AAUW. https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/.
- 47A. China Scholarship Council. (2024, March 25). Official website: China Scholarships Council | CSC Scholarship | Chinese Government Scholarship. https://www.chinascholarshipcouncil.com
- 47B. Promoting Philanthropy: Global Challenges and Approaches. CBD. https://www.cbd.int/financial/charity/g-promotingphilglobal.pdf.
- 48. Philanthropy In 2025: Trends, Opportunities, And Strategic Shifts. Orr Group. https://orrgroup.com/philanthropy-in-2025-trends-opportunities-shifts/. Published May 30, 2025.
- 49. British Chamber of Commerce in China. (2019). Education on the Belt and Road. https://www.britishchamber.cn/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/BritCham-Education-on-the-belt-and-road-english.pdf
- 50.Han, R. (2020). The China Scholarship Council: An overview. Center for Security and Emerging Technology, Georgetown University. https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/China-Scholarship-Council-Overview.pdf
- 51. National Natural Science Foundation of China. (2024). 2023 Annual report. https://www.nsfc.gov.cn/english/site_1/pdf/NSFC%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf
- 52. Japan to boost government scholarships by 70 percent | British Council. (2023, August 9). https://opportunities-insight.britishcouncil.org/short-articles/news/japan-boost-government-scholarships-70-percent
- 53. MEXT Scholars Association. (2020, August 28). The MEXT Scholarship MEXT Scholars Association. MEXT Scholars Association MEXT Scholars Association Official Website. https://mextsa.org/about-us/the-mext-scholarship/
- 54. Budget. Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. (2025, July 17). 日本学術振興会. https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-organization/budget
- 55. Gouvernement de la République française. (2021, October 12). France 2030: A plan for the France of tomorrow. https://www.gouvernement.fr/france-2030
- 56. Nuffic. (n.d.). Impact and results of the Orange Knowledge Programme. Retrieved August 10, 2025, from https://www.nuffic.nl/en/impact-and-results-of-the-orange-knowledge-programme
- 57. PIE Online. (n.d.). Merian Fund. Retrieved August 10, 2025, from https://www.pieonline.nl/funding/merian-fund/
- 58. OECD. (n.d.). WOTRO. STIP Compass. Retrieved August 10, 2025, from https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2023%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F15807
- 59. Dutch Research Council. (2025). International collaboration. NWO. https://www.nwo.nl/en/international-collaboration

- 60. Government of the Netherlands. (2024, May 13). Aiming for a balanced internationalisation of universities and universities of applied sciences. Government.nl. https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2024/05/13/aiming-for-a-balanced-internationalisation-of-universities-and-universities-of-applied-sciences
- 61. ACA. (2025, April 8). Dutch Senate approves education budget including major cuts to higher education. ACA Secretariat. https://aca-secretariat.be/newsletter/dutch-senate-approves-education-budget-including-major-cuts-to-higher-education/
- 62. Nash, P. (2024, November 1). Netherlands to cut international student budget by €300m. The PIE News. https://thepienews.com/netherlands-to-cut-international-student-budget-by-e300m/
- 63. U.S. Department of State. (2024, December 10). Department of State announces 1600 Gilman scholars, supporting study abroad for American undergraduate students from all 50 states. https://2021-2025.state.gov/department-of-state-announces-1600-gilman-scholars-supporting-study-abroad-for-american-undergraduate-students-from-all-50-states/
- 64. Alliance for International Exchange. (2025, May 2). President's FY26 budget proposes to essentially eliminate State Department exchange programs. https://alliance-exchange.org/alliance-commentary/presidents-fy26-budget-proposes-to-essentially-eliminate-state-department-exchange-programs/
- 65. National Science Foundation. (n.d.). International collaboration opportunities. https://www.nsf.gov/oise/international-collaborations
- 66. National Institutes of Health. (2024, September 11). Information for foreign grants. https://grants.nih.gov/new-to-nih/information-for/foreign-grants
- 67. Inside Higher Ed. (2025, August 5). International student enrollment could drop 15% by fall. https://www.insidehighered.com/news/global/international-students-us/2025/08/05/international-student-enrollment-could-drop-15
- 68. American Council on Education. (n.d.). Toward greater inclusion and success. https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/Intl-Students-Monograph.pdf
- 69. Chevening. (2024). Chevening Impact Report 2022-2023. https://www.chevening.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Chevening-Impact-Report-2022-2023.pdf
- 70. Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. (2024). Commonwealth Scholarship Commission business plan 2024 to 2025. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/commonwealth-scholarship-commission-in-the-uk-corporate-plan-2024-to-2025/commonwealth-scholarship-commission-business-plan-2024-to-2025
- 71. Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. (2025). International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF): evaluation framework. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-science-partnerships-fund-evaluation-framework/international-science-partnerships-fund-ispf-evaluation-framework
- 72. House of Commons Library. (2025). International students in UK higher education (Research Briefing CBP-7976). https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7976/
- 73. Oldac, Y. I. (2024). UK's international research collaborations in the post-Brexit era. Society for Research into Higher Education. https://srhe.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Oldac-report.pdf
- 74. Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. (2024). FCDO annual report and accounts 2023-2024. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fcdo-annual-report-and-accounts-2023-to-2024
- 75. UK Research and Innovation. (2024). UKRI international strategic framework. https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-international-strategic-framework/
- 76.The Guardian. (2025, January 15). UK universities face funding squeeze as international student numbers fall. https://www.theguardian.com/education/2025/jan/15/uk-universities-funding-squeeze-international-student-numbers-fall
- 77. Times Higher Education. (2025, February 10). UK visa changes hit international student numbers hard. https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/uk-visa-changes-hit-international-student-numbers-hard/2025010
- 78. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2024). Portfolio Budget Statements 2024-25: Budget Related Paper No. 1.8. Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio, p. 55. https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/2024-25-dfat-pbs.pdf
- 79. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (n.d.). About Australia Awards. Retrieved August 10, 2025, from https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/about-australia-awards
- 80. Australian Department of Home Affairs. (n.d.). Student visa Subclass 500: Changes to student visa. Retrieved August 10, 2025, from https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/changes-to-student-visa
- 81. Global Affairs Canada. (2019). Building on Success: Canada's International Education Strategy (2019-2024). https://www.international.gc.ca/education/strategy-2019-2024-strategie.aspx?lang=eng
- 82. Mitacs. (n.d.). For international undergraduate students. Retrieved August 10, 2025, from https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/globalink/globalink-research-internship
- 83. Universities Canada. (2024, May 28). Canada's universities celebrate the success of the Global Skills Opportunity program. https://www.univcan.ca/media-room/media-releases/canadas-universities-celebrate-the-success-of-the-global-skills-opportunity-program/84. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2024, January 22). Canada to stabilize growth and reduce number of new international student permits issued to approximately 360,000 for 2024. https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2024/01/canada-to-stabilize-growth-and-reduce-number-of-new-international-student-permits-issued-to-approximately-360000-for-2024.html
- 85A. Canadian Bureau for International Education. (2022). International Student Experience in Canada: National Report. p. 12.

- https://cbie.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-CBIE-ISX-Report-EN.pdf
- 85B. Swedish Institute. (2024). SI Scholarships for Global Professionals 2024/2025. https://si.se/en/apply/scholarships/swedish-institute-scholarships-for-global-professionals/
- 86.Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (2024). Sweden's international development cooperation plan 2024-2025. https://www.government.se/international-development-cooperation
- 87, Swedish Research Council. (2024). Annual report 2023. https://www.vr.se/english/about-us/annual-report.html
- 88.Swedish Research Council. (2024). International collaboration strategy 2024-2025. https://www.vr.se/english/international-collaboration.html
- 89. Formas. (2024). International research partnerships 2024. https://formas.se/en/start-page/our-areas/international-collaboration.html
- 90. Vinnova. (2024). Horizon Europe participation report. https://www.vinnova.se/en/our-activities/international-cooperation/horizon-europe/
- 91. University World News. (2024, March 10). Sweden's visa changes deter international students. https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240310123456789
- 92.Times Higher Education. (2024, June 15). Sweden struggles with international student recruitment. https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/sweden-struggles-international-student-recruitment/20240615
- 93. Study in Sweden. (2024). Challenges for international students in Sweden. https://studyinsweden.se/plan-your-studies/challenges-in-sweden/
- 94. The Local Sweden. (2024, April 5). Migration policies impact researchers in Sweden. https://www.thelocal.se/20240405/migration-policies-impact-researchers-sweden
- 95. Swiss Government. (2024). Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships 2024-2025. https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/education/scholarships-and-grants/swiss-government-excellence-scholarships.html
- 96. Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. (2024). SGES program overview 2024. https://www.seri.admin.ch/seri/en/home/scholarships/sges.html
- 97. Swiss National Science Foundation. (2024). SNSF annual report 2023. https://www.snf.ch/en/about-us/annual-report
- 98. Swiss National Science Foundation. (2024). SNSF strategic plan 2025-2028. https://www.snf.ch/en/strategy/plan-2025-2028
- 99. Swiss National Science Foundation. (2024). New funding opportunities 2025. https://www.snf.ch/en/funding/new-opportunities-2025
- 100. Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. (2024). International programs: Postdoc.Mobility and ThinkSwiss. https://www.seri.admin.ch/seri/en/home/international-programs.html
- 101. European Commission. (2024). Switzerland's association with Horizon Europe. https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/switzerland-association_en
- 102. The Local Switzerland. (2025, January 20). High costs and permits challenge Swiss research recruitment. https://www.thelocal.ch/20250120/high-costs-permits-challenge-swiss-research-recruitment
- 103. Swiss Info. (2024, May 12). Switzerland's research competitiveness under pressure. https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/science/switzerland-research-competitiveness/20240512
- 104. Times Higher Education. (2024, July 20). EU programs challenge Swiss universities. https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/eu-programs-challenge-swiss-universities/20240720
- 105. Korean Ministry of Education. (2024). Global Korea Scholarship guidelines 2025. https://www.studyinkorea.go.kr/en/sub/gks/allnew_invite.do
- 106. Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (2025). 2025 GKS graduate program announcement. https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/sg-en/brd/m_2435/view.do?seq=761529
- 107. National Research Foundation of Korea. (2024). NRF annual report 2023. https://www.nrf.re.kr/eng/main
- 108. National Research Foundation of Korea. (2025). Call for proposals: 2025 Korea-Italy joint research. https://www.nrf.re.kr/eng/notices/call-for-proposals
- 109.Korea Herald. (2025, May 28). Concerns rise in Korea over reports on US halting student visa appointments. https://www.koreaherald.com/article/10497974
- 110. ICEF. (2025, July 23). Measuring the impacts of the first full year of Canada's foreign student enrolment cap. ICEF Monitor Market Intelligence for International Student Recruitment. https://monitor.icef.com/2025/07/measuring-the-impacts-of-the-first-full-year-of-canadas-foreign-student-enrolment-cap/



Prepared by

Carlos Vargas, M.Ed Founder **Societās Partnerships**, Panama founder@societaspartnership.com August 2025