



International Partnerships: A Perspective From an Australian Regional University



GOOD UNIVERSITIES GUIDES
**Australia's
University of the Year
2000 - 2001**
DEVELOPING THE e-UNIVERSITY



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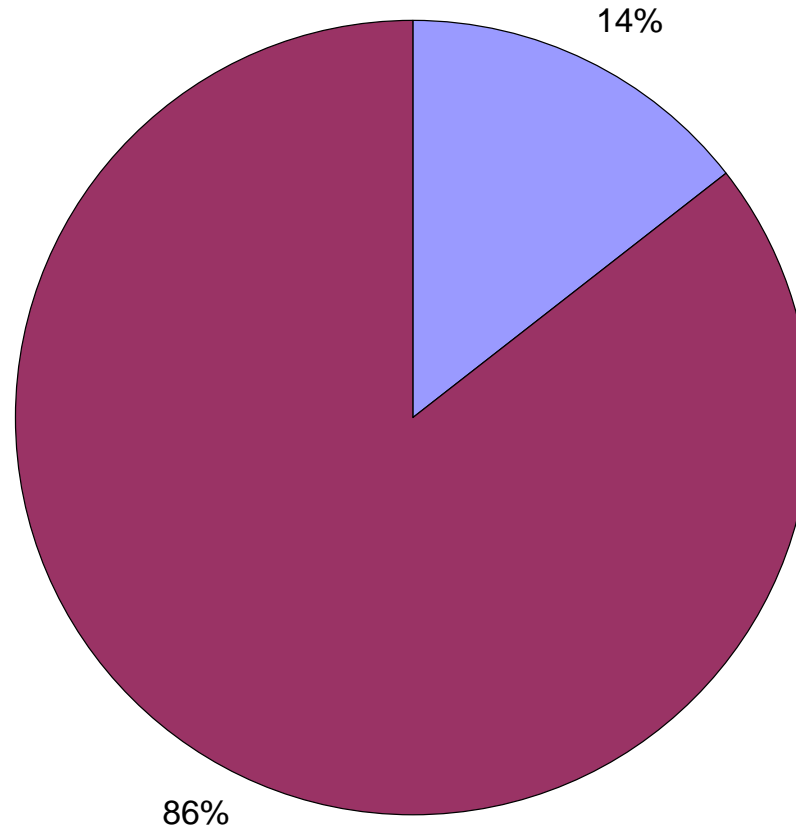


About the University of Southern Queensland (USQ)

- **An Australian Government university**
- **26,000 students**
- **600 academic staff, 840 general staff (full-time equivalents)**
- **3 campuses (Toowoomba, Fraser Coast, Springfield)**



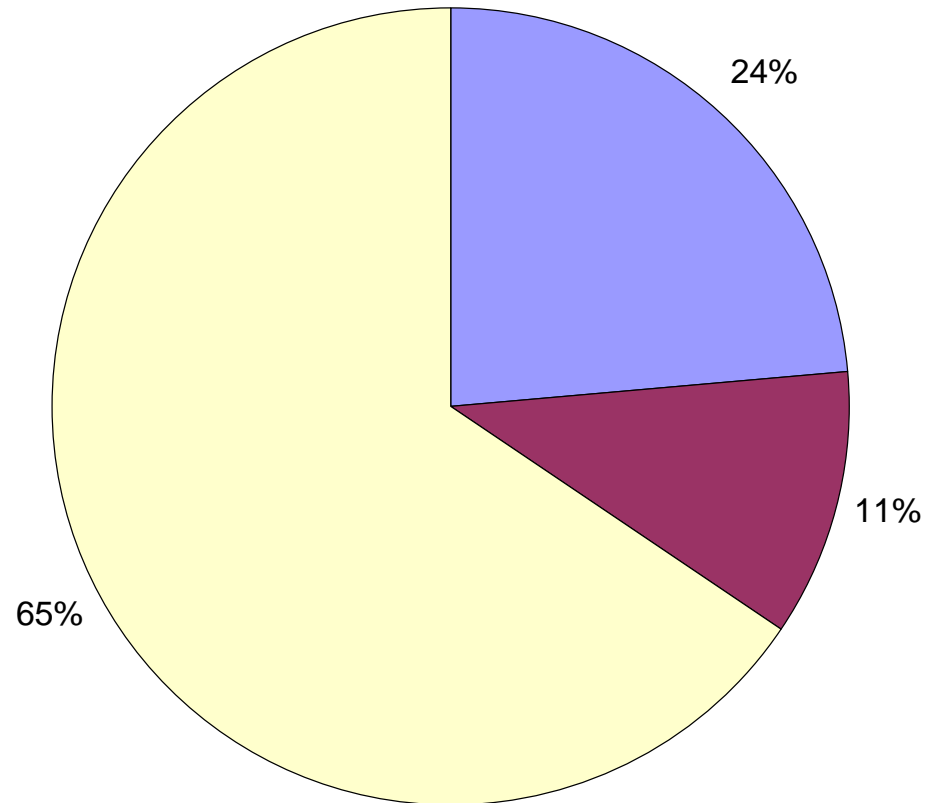
About USQ (cont.)



On-campus Distance



About USQ (cont.)



Int'l - offshore Int'l - onshore Australian



About USQ (cont.)

- **Institutional awards**
 - 1999 International Council for Open and Distance Learning (ICDE), Inaugural Prize for Institutional Excellence
 - 2000-2001 Good Universities Guides Australian University of the Year (Developing the e-University)
 - 2000 Commonwealth of Learning Award for Excellence for Institutional Achievement
 - Accredited by the Distance Education Training Council (USA)



International Partnerships: Approaches

- **Agency**
 - Agent sells places [commission]
- **Support Centre**
 - Agency + student support (physical and virtual) [share of fee]
- **Partner**
 - Agency + student support + face-to-face teaching [share of fee]



Challenges for Partners

- **Culture**
 - **Contract vs relationship**
 - **Profit-making vs non-profit making**
- **Marketing**
 - **Division of responsibilities**
 - **Developing and executing strategy**
 - **Who pays?**



Challenges for Partners (cont.)

- **Quality assurance**
 - Australian universities quality framework
 - USQ's student learning journey
 - Staff development: whose responsibility?
- **Legal issues**
 - Local registrations/approvals
 - Prudential regulations



Challenges for Partners (cont.)

- **Scale constraints of delivery models**
 - Stepped cost functions
- **Economic risks**
 - Local regulations
 - Exchange rate fluctuations
 - Business failure
 - Fraud



Challenges for Students

- **Transitions to**
 - **Australian higher education**
 - Rules vs negotiation
 - Deep vs shallow learning
 - **Australian society and culture (onshore only)**
 - Respect for authority
 - Cuisine



Challenges for Students (cont.)

- **English language**
 - Lack of fluency
 - The problem of plagiarism
- **Fees**
 - Increase annually
 - Paid in AUD



The Future

- **Role of ICT**
 - Pedagogy
 - Costs
- **Capacity-building**
 - GDLN
- **Strategic alliances**
 - Learning organisations



THANK YOU