

Universities for the World programme

Internationalisation of Higher Education

Programme overview

The programme aims to assist Brazil in developing its **internationalisation** at home strategy, utilising the resources and knowledge of **UK HEIs** with experience in developing and implementing internationalisation strategies, and strengthening partnerships between UK and Brazilian higher education institutions.

UNIVERSITIES
FOR THE WORLD

The programme comprised the following stages:

- Two calls for partnerships between UK and BR Higher Education Institutions to support capacity building at universities and structuring of strategic internationalisation plans, (2017 and 2018)
- The Call “**UK Brazil English Collaboration**” that supported applied research projects between UK and Brazilian Higher Education Institutions (2018)
- The call “**Capacity Building and Internationalisation for Higher Education**” for monitoring and evaluation of implementation of internationalisation plans (2019)

Core objectives

- 1 Working with Brazilian HEIs and governments to advance with the internationalisation of Brazilian HEIs through knowledge exchange and capacity building
- 2 Working with UK and Brazilian government to secure favourable policies/projects/programmes for universities to achieve their international HE objectives
- 3 Support Global connections at institutional (HEIs) and governmental levels
- 4 Increased international networks and partnerships in Higher Education, driving improved curricula, research and mobility, collaboration, and policy development in education for mutual benefit.
- 5 Develop and share strategic knowledge, by documenting key debates and process that will foster UK-BR links and open new HE markets

The UftW Programme generated **1,452 individual** and **378 institutional** participations over 4 years, from 2017 to 2020.

Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise*

- In Brazil, 17 universities out of 27 universities participated in the M&E Exercise (63%), compared to 11 out of 19 (57.9%) in the UK.
- In the UK, England is the predominant region, followed by Scotland and Wales. In Brazil, the dominant region is the Southeast, followed by the South and Northeast.
- The surveys were open from 9 November 2020 until 18 December 2020

Region	Response Percent
UK	
England	68.75%
Northern Ireland	0.00%
Scotland	18.75%
Wales	12.50%
Brazil	
Midwest	12%
North	0%
Northeast	24%
South	29%
Southeast	35%

Source: British Council records

* Conducted by Global Impact Institute

Key findings of the M&E exercise

- 1 Greater internationalisation of HE institutions
- 2 The British Council as a catalysator for making UK universities favoured partners



“The mediation of the British Council was essential for increasing the level of internationalisation and further relationships with UK universities, resulting in a huge increase of double degree courses for PhD (with King’s College & Imperial College) and agreements with Nottingham, Birmingham, Exeter and Surrey”.

Prof. Dr. Marcio de Castro Silva Filho
Deputy Dean of Graduate Studies at USP

Key findings of the M&E exercise

- 3 The British Council as a supporter of collaboration across a wide range of beneficial issues
 - Increased international mobility
 - Enabling of an International Higher Education (IHE) environment
 - Improved capacities and skills
 - Increased non-research and innovation capacity.
 - Increased research collaboration and improved research capacity
 - Improved student outcomes
 - Strengthening of the Brazilian HE system
 - English language for internationalisation has been strengthened



“The British Council provides a broad range of operations and opportunities. They have calls that support internationalisation from the individual researcher to an entire HEI and its management team. In this way, they create potential for a variety of ways to work with UK institutions”.

Prof. Dr. Eliane Segati Rios Registro

Key findings of the M&E exercise

- 4 The British Council strongly supports the presence and influence of UK HEIs in Brazil
- 5 The British Council contributes strongly to the advancement of internationalisation in Brazil



“The guidelines shared by the British Council about the internationalisation process constantly instigate us to embrace new ideas and to contribute by thinking outside the box. These guidelines reflect mutual interests addressing the Brazilian academic community, and we know that working with the British Council means they will make it happen”.

*Prof. Dr. Maria Leonor Alves Maia
President of FAUBAI*

Key findings of the M&E exercise

- 6 Through the UftW programme, the British Council has supported internationalisation in Brazil on these levels:
- **Institutional:** through improving policies, structures, engaging dialogues, letting institutions enter networks, or developing research strategies
 - **Faculty:** through mutual visits, exchanges, engagement with the leadership, development of projects, products and concepts in areas closest to the interest of a faculty (such as research, publications) but especially by engaging academics in interdisciplinary dialogues through the delegation visits and workshops
 - **Individual:** by increasing personal capacities and knowledge, providing new links and networks, especially also across disciplines and by supporting individuals to increase their research output.

The UftW programme is relevant, effective, efficient, sustainable and impactful



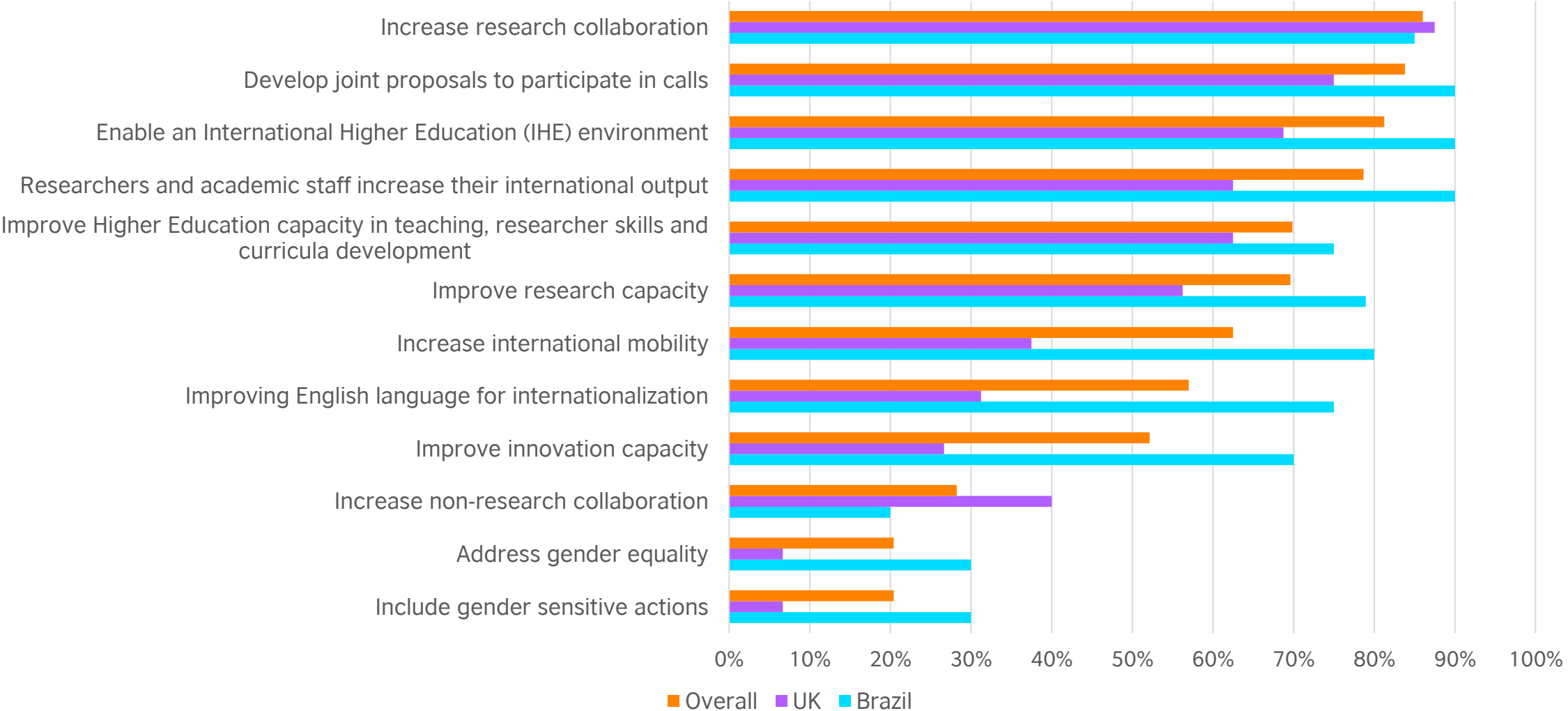
The UftW programme is a very important and intelligent program, since it can capture the real needs of institutions for internationalisation. It is strategically directed institutional support, based on data and well-grounded information, which actually made the difference”.

Prof. Dr. Marcella Furtado de Magalhães Gomes

Associate Professor in Exclusive Dedication and Mobility Coordinator at DRI

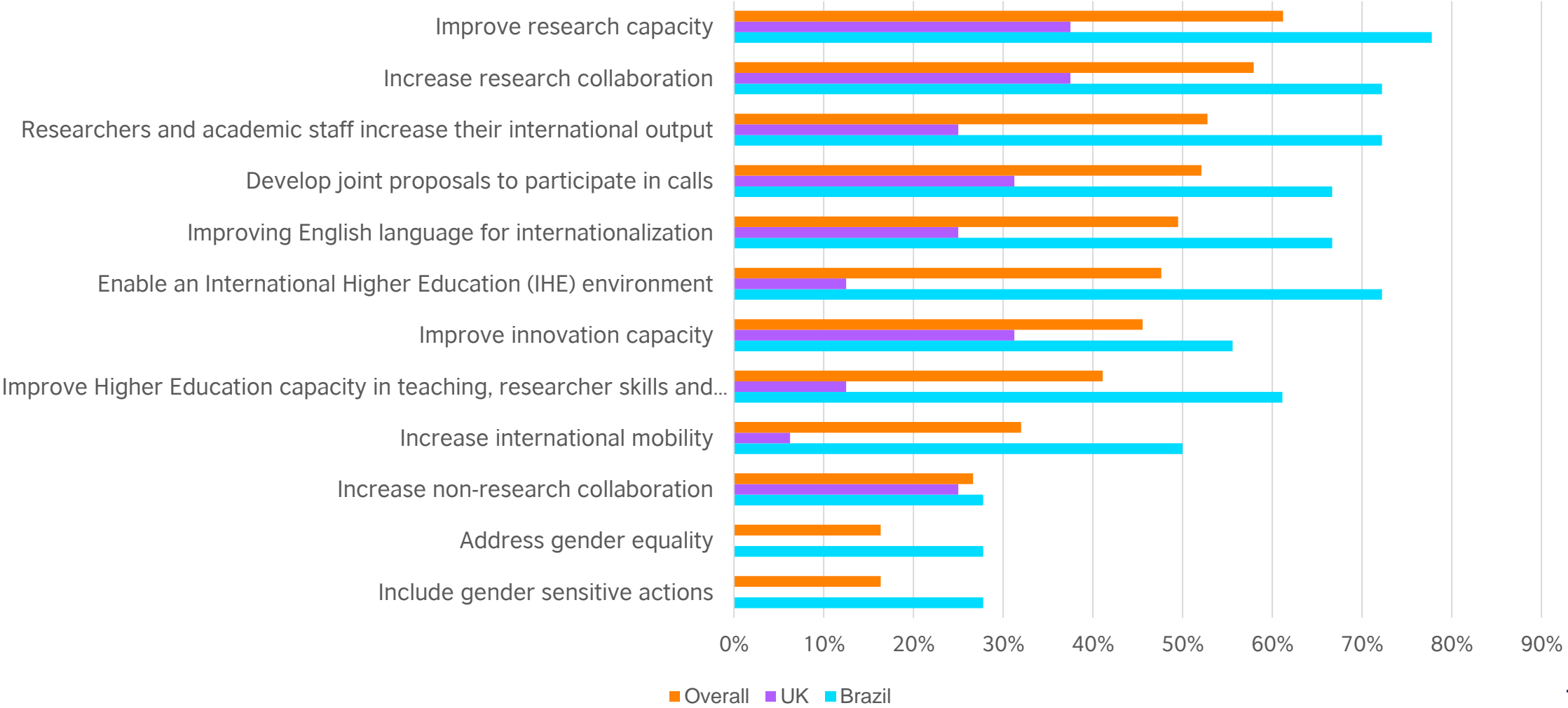
Key findings of the survey

Main purposes to engage in the UftW programme



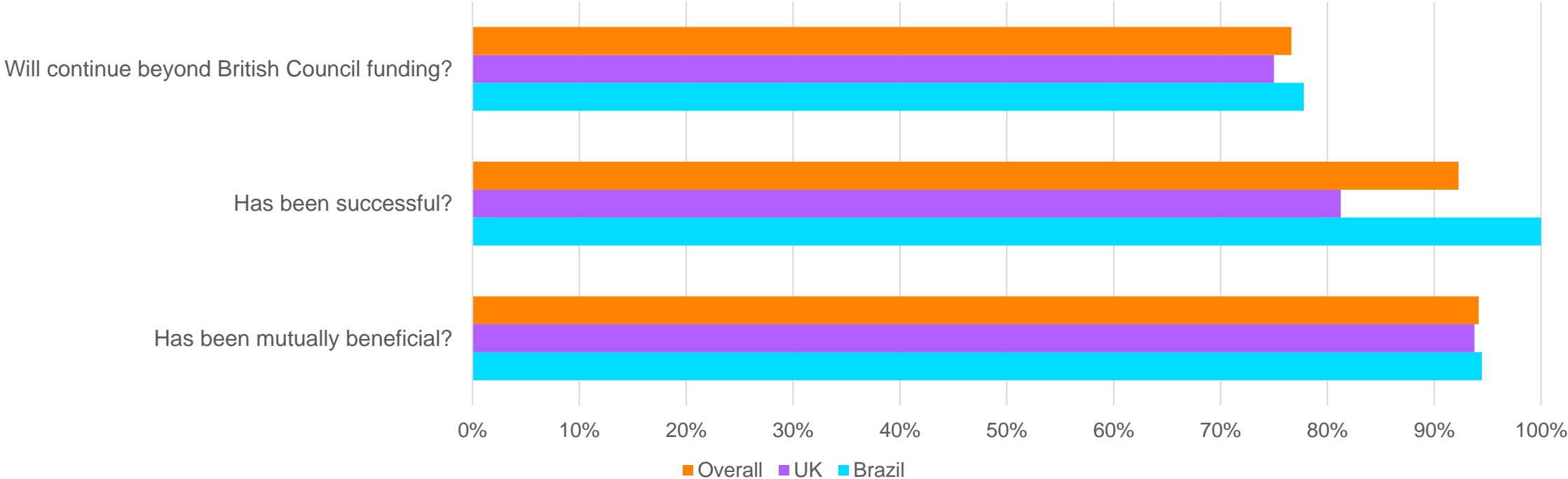
Key findings of the survey

Perceived effects of the UftW programme



Key findings of the survey

Perspective on partnerships



Key findings of the survey



Competence of the British Council

All Brazilian universities agreed or strongly agreed that the British Council shows an outstanding level of operational expertise and support for the beneficiary institutions and that their institution considers the British Council a key expert organisation in internationalisation and education.

This view was shared by **87.5%** of the UK institutions in each case. **94.4%** of the Brazilian and **68.7%** of the UK universities agreed or strongly agreed that their institution recognises the British Council as a strategic stakeholder to implement internationalisation initiatives in the local education context.

Lessons Learned and areas of improvement

Collaboration in Higher Educations Institutions

- Mutual **learning** through delivery of workshops and broader academic interactions
- Having **key visiting facilitators** in residence for long periods of time i.e 2-4 weeks plus
- It was important to have a **clear and detailed programme** for both the outgoing and incoming visits and to organise meetings with other colleagues across both universities in advance.

English and Higher Education

- Differing levels of **English language skills and familiarity with research** writing conventions of partner HEIs ideally would be established from the outset.
- The need to fully **understand the higher education environment**, including political context of your partner for a successful collaboration.

What UK Universities would like to see in a next programme like this one?

- Several aggregated around joint programmes:
 - Developing joint programmes/TNE
 - Collaborative programmes: progression, dual, articulation etc.
 - Early researcher development
 - Hybrid models of teaching

- Additionally, several content-related suggestions were made:
 - Knowledge exchange with industry
 - Continued focus on the Sustainable Development Goals
 - Research into applications/interventions
 - Strategic model for partnerships

What UK Universities would like to see in a next programme like this one?

- Others focused on teachers and researchers:
 - Mapping EAP teacher education
 - Supporting and/or mapping EAP teachers in EMI settings
 - The link between ELL in schools and university entry requirements
 - Research capacity building (e.g. in Brazil) with respect to research into language policy-making

Next Steps – British Council Brazil

- Internationalisation and Language Policies call in partnership with MEC and CONFAP
- Capacity-building and match-making workshops with Brazilian and UK universities
- Baseline Study with FAUBAI
- Recognition of qualifications negotiations with Brazil

Thank you!

Vera Oliveira
Senior Manager – Higher Education
British Council Brazil