

**Citation information.** *in esse: English Studies in Albania*. Volume 8, Issue 1, Page 88-113.  
ISSN 2078 – 7413.

**English as a means of enhancing the internationalisation of higher education. A  
case study: Romania**

**Oana-Luiza BARBU**, *University of Bucharest, Romania*

**Email:** [oanaluzabarbu@yahoo.com](mailto:oanaluzabarbu@yahoo.com)

**Abstract**

The spread of globalisation and multiculturalism has challenged higher education all over the world. The intensification of the free movement of ideas, people and products has led to changes in the structure of academic staff, student's profile, content of the curricula and teaching methods, as well as in the criteria for developing academic cooperation projects. This dynamic perceived at the higher education level has acquired a name: internationalisation. In a context where everything has become interconnected, we see the need for a common language, able to enhance the internationalisation process in order for higher education to fulfil its new role in a globalised and multicultural world. Can English represent this bridging language in higher education, as it can in many other fields? Our hypothesis is that indeed, the English language can be considered a means of enhancing the internationalisation of higher education. In order to test our hypothesis, we will illustrate our assumption by using the Romanian case. In the first part of the article, we will present the historical background of the use of English in Romanian higher education institutions, while in the second we will focus on its present use as a means of enhancing the internationalisation process.

**Keywords:** *English, globalisation, higher education, internationalisation, multiculturalism*