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**Abstract**

This paper explores the policy implications of experiences of African international students (AIS) studying at post-apartheid South Africa universities. It argues that given the spirit and tone of continental, regional, and domestic policies to which South Africa has committed that at the very least there is an implicit expectation of non-discriminatory treatment of AIS in the country. It establishes the link between cooperative policies and the experiences of AIS, and finds that in light of the negative experiences of some, higher education (HE) policy-makers, scholars, and practitioners must take note not just as a human relations concern, but also, because it is a clear departure from policy. Given these policy implications, this study has relevance not just for HE policy and practice in South Africa, but also for other world regions (i.e. the European Union) where there are cooperative policies and agreements that have been signed by member states. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)