

CAUCASUS UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONALIZATION POLICY AND EVALUATION MECHANISMS

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კავკასიის უნივერსიტეტი
CAUCASUS UNIVERSITY



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INTRODUCTION

Internationalization is one of the most important strategic priorities of Caucasus University. This goal is reflected in the mission of the University, which emphasizes the introduction of research-based learning and teaching approaches that respond to the demands of the international labor market and democratic principles.

The mission and strategic goals of the University are fully consistent with the goals of European higher education and the tasks defined by the unified strategy of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, as well as with the international standards of authorization and accreditation implemented by the National Center for Education Quality Enhancement.

In order to maintain high academic standards and strengthen international cooperation, the University relies on the principles of the Bologna process and the 2030 goals of sustainable development. In order to ensure the success of the internationalization process, the University chooses "Comprehensive internationalization", which is a strategic and coordinated approach and ensures the integration of international, global and intercultural experience at all levels of University activities, policies, programs, practices and services. The mentioned approach aims at the involvement of all stakeholders in the University life, providing access to individual approaches and international experience.

The International Relations Department of Caucasus University supports the internationalization activities and energetically cooperates with the University's strategic development department, project management department, schools, innovation and entrepreneurship center, international accreditation office, research facilitation department, various structural units and all stakeholders. The procedures developed at the University include exchange of academic/administrative staff and students with international partners, development of joint educational programs, attraction of international students and staff, promotion of research projects, positioning in the ranking systems of global universities, obtaining international accreditations, growth of international partners, membership in professional networks and associations, etc.

The evaluation and updating of the results of the activities carried out for the purpose of strengthening the internationalization is carried out based on the performance mechanisms, tasks and indicators determined by the three-year action plan developed together with the Strategic Development Department.

VISION OF CAUCASUS UNIVERSITY

The vision of Caucasus University is to create a learning environment in which everyone will have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential, which will earn it the name of a university based on international recognition and ethical principles in the Caucasus region and beyond.

MISSION OF CAUCASUS UNIVERSITY

The mission of Caucasus University is to train competitive, highly qualified specialists with moral values and democratic ideals in the local and international labor market by introducing research-oriented teaching and learning and meeting the educational requirements of the society.

UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONALIZATION POLICY AND PROCESS

In order to integrate into the international educational space, Caucasus University cooperates with various universities and institutes around the world. The partnership includes the exchange of students, administrative, academic, scientific and visiting staff, implementation of joint programs, institutional and research projects, conducting scientific conferences, symposiums, short-term projects and master classes, obtaining international accreditations, sharing best practices and knowledge, etc.

The University implements important grant projects funded by international donor organizations and provides for institutional development, elaboration of new programs, improvement of teaching and learning quality, creation of research centers, increase of library resources, formation of an innovative entrepreneurial ecosystem, strengthening of the third mission of the University, achieving the goals of sustainable development of the United Nations. Raising awareness and integration at the institutional and program level, as well as development of various support services to improve University life. Within the framework of Erasmus + international mobility program funded by the European Commission, the University implements exchange projects with European partners and private universities, and ranks third in the country according to the number of the funded projects.

The comprehensive internationalization policy of Caucasus University is implemented through the following activities:

With a view to ensuring **compliance of academic and professional educational programs based on market and community requirements with international accreditation standards, the University actively works for obtaining international accreditation and recognition** and is the only Georgian higher education institution that has successfully obtained the RIBA accreditation of the British Royal Institute of Architects for its architecture program, and the UN World Tourism Organization (WTO) TedQual Accreditation for Tourism Program. Currently, the University is in the final stages of the AACSB accreditation process. The University carries out a number of activities to identify relevant international accreditations for various educational programs and initiates the relevant process.

Caucasus University is an individual full member of the European University Association (EUA), and with this mandate, the University participates in such important processes as the formation of European higher education and research policies, familiarization with the European best practices, etc. and from 2022 it is a member of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), which further strengthens the positioning of the University in France. In 2019, Caucasus University opened a European campus in France on the basis of the Rennes School of Business.

With a view to maximizing (optimizing) the number of students/professional students, the University carries out activities of attracting foreign students and ensures their integration in the University space; Participates in international exhibitions, contact seminars, cooperates with agents, prepares marketing materials, actively cooperates with Georgian consulates and embassies operating abroad, etc. The University is constantly trying to identify new strategically important countries for recruiting students in cooperation with international partners, in this process the research of the educational market of a particular country and the study of existing regulations in the direction of higher education are actively carried out.

In order to improve internationalization at the level of educational programs, Caucasus University offers joint educational programs to both Georgian and foreign students. It should be noted that Caucasus University is the first Georgian higher educational institution that successfully implements a 3-year joint bachelor's program with leading European and American universities: Fairleigh Dickenson University, USA; New Jersey City University, USA, Rennes School of Business, France.

At the master's level, the following joint educational and certificate programs are implemented with the following universities: Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau, Germany, Rosen College of Hospitality Management, USA, Grenoble Ecole De Management, France.

With a view to strengthening internationalization of the students/academic and administrative staff, Caucasus University cooperates with more than 250 universities worldwide. The mentioned partnership includes the exchange of students, administrative, academic and visiting staff, implementation of joint institutional and research projects, implementation of scientific conferences, symposiums, short-term projects and master classes, sharing of best practices and introduction of new standards. It should also be noted that Caucasus University is actively involved in the Erasmus+ programs funded by the European Commission. Within the framework of the Erasmus+ program, the University implements fully funded mobility projects. The University runs exchange programs where students have the opportunity to obtain a degree in their minor concentration based on the recognition of credits from such leading universities as: Grenoble Ecole De Management, France, ISCTE Business School, Portugal and Upper Austria University of Applied Sciences School of Management.

With a view to internationalizing research activities and developing an innovative ecosystem, the University intensively cooperates with local and international donor organizations in order to implement joint institutional and research projects. Fundamental, applied, pedagogical, institutional development oriented research projects are being conducted in the University, funded by both national and foreign/international donor organizations, the purpose of which is to achieve socio-economic effect, both at the University level, and also to make a certain contribution to the development of the country's research and innovation ecosystem. Dissemination of the knowledge gained through the mentioned studies is done through the publication of scientific articles in foreign and University journals. The University encourages academic staff to publish articles in journals of high scientific value indexed in international databases of citations and abstracts, to participate in international scientific conferences and other events. The University successfully implements various projects funded by the European Commission. Among them are many projects of Jean

Monnet program, in particular, the Jean Monnet success network (JM Center of Excellence), the chair and the Jean Monnet module projects operate in the Caucasus University, which makes the University a hub of Jean Monnet and European education. The University is involved in Erasmus Plus institutional development projects, the goals of which are to introduce standards of academic and research integrity, strengthen the third mission of the University, develop the direction of sustainability and green tourism, create a psychological support center for students, develop technological skills, create a quantum laboratory, etc. University researchers are also actively involved in the events and projects planned by the European Cooperation Organization for Science and Technology (COST).

Caucasus University promotes joint research activities with economic agents, the goal of which is technological and innovative development. With the help of the American government and the embassy, a number of projects related to the development of the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem were implemented, both in Georgia and at Caucasus University, and a number of technology camps and startup pre-acceleration programs were implemented in cooperation with George Washington University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center.

The University intensively cooperates with the United Nations UNA1 and the representative office of the UN Global Compact Network in Georgia. Within the framework of this cooperation, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center of the University annually implements the Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration Program for young leaders. In order to boost the research potential and develop an innovative culture, the University has created an internal University financing mechanism for research activities, which is intended for funding fundamental and applied research, as well as research and activity related to the development of teaching and educational activities, as well as giving academic staff and students of all three levels the opportunity to receive Funding for participation in local / international scientific events, preparation of a paper and publication in a professional and/or scientific journal. Every year, the University holds an international scientific conference in which international researchers from partner universities participate. The University regularly provides academic staff with information on grant funding opportunities, advises on the formalities of the project application.

Strategic tasks and evaluation mechanisms of internationalization of the Caucasus University:

In the seven-year strategic development plan of Caucasus University, internationalization is one of the strategic goals. In the three-year action plan, the strategic tasks to be implemented with the aim of strengthening internationalization are divided into the following benchmarks of the strategic map: customer benchmark, process benchmark and resource benchmark. (see Appendix 1)

In order to ensure the transparency, continuity and continuous development of the internationalization process, the relevant structural units involved in the management and coordination of the process report and update the information related to the internationalization process on the University electronic platform, where both the quantitative indicators and the activities implemented in this direction are collected in accordance with the standards. As a result of annual monitoring, the process is evaluated and appropriate University activities are planned/implemented for its improvement.

APPENDIX

COSTUMER BENCHMARKS:

C1: Maximize (optimize) the number of students/professional students at all CU locations in relation to the increase in total revenue

Performance indicators:

- Number of degree-seeking international students admitted in the spring semester
- Number of degree-seeking international students admitted in the fall semester

C3. Strengthening internationalization at the level of the students

Performance indicators:

- The number of incoming students in the bilateral exchange program
- The number of outgoing students in the bilateral exchange program
- The number of student mobility (incoming) in the Erasmus+ exchange program
- The number of outgoing student mobility in the Erasmus+ exchange program
- The number of students participating in short-term international programs (summer programs, short-term training courses, international competitions) (outgoing)
- The number of incoming students participating in short-term international programs (summer programs, short-term training courses, international competitions)
- The number of implemented social activities related to the integration of foreign students
- The number of international degree-seekers with active status

PROCESSES BENCHMARK:

P1: Ensuring compliance of academic and professional educational programs with local and international accreditation standards based on market and community requirements

Performance indicators:

- Having international (re)accreditation in the current academic year
- Number of programs
- Evaluation received during international (re)accreditation in the current academic year in relation to the standards

P3: Strengthening internationalization at the level of educational programs

Performance indicators:

- Number of (re)accredited joint programs in the current academic year (Dual degree or/and double degree or/and joint degree)
- Number of (re)accredited foreign language programs in the current academic year
- The rate of evaluations received during (re)accreditation of joint programs in the current academic year in relation to the standards
- The rate of evaluations received during the (re)accreditation of foreign language programs in the current academic year in relation to the standards

P4 Strengthening internationalization at the level of research activities

Performance indicators:

- Number of international research projects
- Number of publications in international journals (indexed in citation and abstract databases)
- Number of academic personnel participating in international academic conferences
- Number of foreign academic/scientific/guest personnel involved in the research
- Number of international research (Joint research) collaboration

P10: Constant care for the brand awareness, image and reputation of Caucasus University in the local and international arena.

Performance indicators:

- Current number of Erasmus + international partners
- Number of new Erasmus + and bilateral international partners
- Number of new Erasmus + international partners
- Number of new bilateral international partners
- Existing number of bilateral international partners
- Number of memberships in international organizations
- Number of international partners (bilateral and Erasmus +).
- Number of participation in international education exhibitions
- Indicator of the position of the University and/or schools and/or programs in the authoritative rating systems of education
- An indicator of the position of the University in the authoritative rating systems of education

BENCHMARK OF RESOURCES:

Strengthening internationalization at the level of academic and administrative staff

Performance indicators:

- Number of administrative personnel participating in exchange programs (outgoing)
- Number of administrative personnel participating in exchange programs (incoming)
- Number of academic staff participating in exchange programs (incoming)
- Number of academic staff participating in exchange programs (outgoing)
- Number of foreign academic and/or invited personnel involved in teaching
- Number of foreign administrative staff



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