

CAUCASUS UNIVERSITY

Internationalization Policy

Introduction

Internationalization represents one of the most important strategic goals of the Caucasus University. It is reflected in the University mission, which emphasizes implementation of research-based learning and teaching approaches that meet international labor market requirements and democratic principles.

The University mission and strategic goals are fully coinciding with the objectives defined under Georgia's unified strategy of education and science, as well as with the international standards of authorization and accreditation implemented by the National Center for Education Quality Enhancement.

International Relations and Projects Department is actively working with the Governing Board Members of the University, as well as structural units and stakeholders for successful implementation of the internationalization policy.

Methodology:

Development of the present policy was preceded by the internal survey aimed at identification of the strategic directions of the University, including needs assessment and priority setting in the internationalization area. In addition, the analysis of interviews held by the Fulbright professor in the Caucasus University is to be noted. During the survey deans, heads of structural units, students and lecturers were interviewed. Also, significant external survey was conducted, which assessed the current internationalization practice, implemented mechanisms and challenges in the other higher education institutions. The analysis of national education and science strategy, authorization and accreditation standards, association agreement, strategic objectives defined under country's Social – Economic Development Strategy – *Georgia 2020* and international practice, in particular ACE and EAU internationalization guides, represent a part of the methodology.

Vision of Caucasus University:

The vision of Caucasus University is to become an internationally recognized and ethically grounded university in the Caucasus region and beyond by creating the educational space where every stakeholder will achieve his/her maximum potential.

Mission of Caucasus University:

The mission of Caucasus University is to prepare competitive, highly qualified, morally grounded graduates who are faithful to democratic values through research-oriented teaching and learning process and with that satisfy educational requirements of the society

Strategic Objectives of Caucasus University in the Area of Internationalization:

Objective 1. Research Internationalization

Objective 2. Program (learning/ teaching) Internationalization

Objective 3. International Recognition and Institutional Development

Description of the University Internationalization Process

Caucasus University, for the purpose of integration in the international education area, cooperates with various universities across the globe and has around 142 partners from 53 countries. Partnership includes exchange of students, administrative, academic, scientific and invited personnel, implementation of joint institutional and research projects, organization and delivery of scientific conferences, symposiums, short-term projects and master classes, sharing best practice and introduction of new standards. The University is implementing exchange programs with 40 European partners within the scope of the Erasmus + international mobility program funded by the European Commission. In this regard Caucasus University is the first among the private universities across the country. It also implements important grant

projects which are financed by the international donor organizations and provide for institutional development, design of new programs, improvement of the learning and teaching quality, establishing research centers, increasing the library resources and introduction of various supporting services for the purpose of improving the university life.

The University is a member of many successful international university associations and professional networks. In addition, the President of the University leads the International Association of University Presidents which includes approximately 800 university presidents across the world, and implements joint programs with the leading European universities. Caucasus University is the first in Georgian education area, which opened a European campus in 2019 on the premises of the French Rennes Business School. Also, AACSB process of international accreditation started, the first stage of which was successfully implemented. Several programs of Caucasus University occupy leading positions in Financial Times and Eduniversal ratings. The University also carries out the activities for attracting foreign students and ensures their integration in the university area.

Caucasus University Directs its Policy in the Following Areas to achieve internationalization objectives:

1. Supports implementation of joint research and innovation projects with the international partners. (Objective 1)
2. Supports internationalization of education programs, development of joint programs, projects, English programs and the international activities. (Objective 2)
3. Supports and develops mobility of students, administrative, academic, research and invited personnel. (Objective 1, Objective 2)
4. Attracts foreign students seeking degree and ensures their integration in the university area. (Objective 2)
5. Recognizes internationalization as a significant part of global development, which is reflected in the university mission and goals. (Objective 3)
6. Ensures institutional strengthening and increasing recognizability at international level. (Objective 3)
7. Ensures development and deepening of international cooperation. (Objective 1, 2, 3)
8. Supports internationalization of organizational management, which ensures integration of university structural units and academic personnel in international educational processes. (Objective 1, Objective 2, Objective 3)

The University ensures fulfillment of each strategic goal through implementing respective mechanisms and required resources.

1. The University supports implementation of joint research and innovation projects with the international partners.

1.1. Obtains funding from local and international donors for supporting research internationalization to implement joint research projects;

1.2. Cooperates with foreign universities and research centers.

1.3. Supports increase in scholar mobility.

1.4. Hosts and participates in international science conferences, forums, symposiums and the other events.

1.5. Publishes articles in indexed peer-reviewed journals.

1.6. Finances participation of academic personnel and scholars in conferences and international research projects in accordance with the internal university grant system.

1.7. Cooperates with the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation.

1.8. Has European research center in France on the premises of Rennes Business School.

1.9. Implements doctoral programs in English language.

1.10. Works with foreign partners on development of joint doctorate programs and co-supervision of dissertation papers.

1.11. Supports cooperation among the University, business sector and scholars. In addition, ensures implementation of research-based innovative and technological projects and research commercialization.

2. The University supports internationalization of education programs, development of joint programs, projects, English programs and the other international activities.

- 2.1. Based on market requirements increases the number of programs offered in English language.
- 2.2. Increases the number of courses (components) in programs offered in English;
- 2.3. Uses foreign literature in teaching process, as well as international cases and methodology;
- 2.4. Constantly updates the courses and ensures matching of teaching/ learning results to global market requirements;
- 2.5. Ensures engagement of students with international organizations and business sector by offering internships, research and etc.
- 2.6. Performs/ plans international accreditation of programs.
- 2.7. Implements joint programs with international partners.
- 2.8. With involvement of international partners and based on their experience updates or develops specific modules.
- 2.9. Obtains donor funding for developing specific programs or courses;
- 2.10. Invites international speakers for delivery of master classes and public lectures within the scope of respective program.

3. The University supports and develops mobility of students, administrative, academic, research and invited personnel.

- 3.1. The University has signed cooperation agreements and memorandums with leading universities of Europe, US and Asia, within the scope of which exchange projects are implemented (incoming/outgoing).
- 3.2. The University obtains international donor funding for the purpose of promoting mobility of students and administrative, academic, science and invited personnel. Increases international mobility number of students, as well as academic and administrative personnel. (incoming/outgoing).
- 3.3. Diversifies international mobility funding sources and works with various donors (EC, DAAD, USAID, Ernst Mach, etc.) (incoming/ outgoing).

3.4. Finances participation of top students in exchange projects in accordance with the internal university regulations.

3.5. Increases the number of mobility projects funded by international donors;

3.6. Hosts academic and administrative personnel within the scope of Fulbright and the other programs for the purpose of engaging in training, external evaluation and strategic planning;

3.7. Supports international mobility by offering/ providing academic and administrative services (enrollment procedures, visa support, providing accommodation, academic consultations and etc.).

3.8. Distributes the information on mobility support programs, short-term projects, contests and the other offers to students, administrative, academic, science and invited personnel.

3.9. Annually announces short – term study programs for foreign students.

4. The University attracts foreign students seeking degree and ensures their integration in the university area.

4.1 Ensures attraction of foreign students seeking degree.

4.2. For the purpose of attracting foreign students the University plans and implements a campaign. It participates in international exhibitions, forums, systems, summits and plans individual exhibitions in selected countries. In order to increase recognizability of programs the University participates in various international events. It publishes information about English language programs on international electronic portals, social networks and journals. Distributes information booklets through embassies, partners and the other communication channels.

4.3. Based on selected programs it identifies the countries from which it intends to receive the students and starts market research in that country and develops a plan for attracting.

4.4. Given the country specifics, the University attracts students through international agents/ intermediary agents or partner universities. For this purpose, it signs agreements with such agents on attracting students.

4.5. Cooperates with the Program *Study in Georgia*.

4.6. Cooperates with embassies, consulates of various countries and etc.

4.7. It offers foreign students programs matching international labor market and employment opportunities.

4.8. The University offers foreign students seeking a degree support services related to academic process. In addition, it provides administrative support in finding accommodation, visa procedures, preparation of enrollment documents, insurance and the other issues.

4.9. It offers students opportunity to learn various foreign languages.

4.10. For the purpose of integrating foreign students and creating inter-cultural environment, the University plans various events such as parties, excursions, education tours, contests, sport activities and the other out-of-school activities. It offers them integration in student life through membership in the University clubs or teams/ groups.

5. Recognizes internationalization as a significant part of global development, which is reflected in the university mission and goals.

5.1. Strategic Development Department performs monitoring and assessment of activities provided in strategic documents and action plan on an annual basis;

5.2. Also, it studies trends and challenges related to academic, economic, political and social-cultural environment in the area of internationalization.

5.3. Given the aforementioned the department ensures revision of the mission and strategic documents and when necessary submits changes to the Governing Board of the University.

5.4. International Relations and Projects Department is responsible for supporting internationalization process at the university level.

6. Ensures institutional strengthening and increasing recognizability at international level.

6.1. For the purpose of strengthening the institutional profile the University became a member of the leading international associations and professional networks.

6.2. The University defines rating systems and plans to implement activities for establishing/ retaining leading position in ratings.

6.3. Develops international marketing plan.

6.4. Identifies those programs for which it plans to obtain accreditation and plans the full process.

6.5. It has started the process of international AACSB accreditation. It is planning to submit WFME accreditation application in 2020. Also, it annually takes part in Eduniversal surveys and occupies leading positions.

6.6. The university is working with the ministries of education of the other countries in the area of recognition to be included in the database of recognized educational institutions.

6.7. For the purpose of increasing recognizability the university is actively working with diplomatic missions, donors and international partners.

6.8. The University permanently cares for improving the quality of education programs and bringing those into conformity with the international standards.

7. Ensures development and deepening of international cooperation

7.1. The University constantly communicates with current partners about novelties going on in the university. It shares the news and new initiatives with them, offers participation in various projects. Similarly, the University receives information and offers from foreign partners.

7.2. For the purpose of finding new partners the University participates in various international conferences, educational weeks, forums, master classes, exhibitions and employment forums.

7.3. In order to establish new partnerships, the University closely cooperates with the international graduates and communicates with the interested universities through them and acquires trust.

7.4. Participates in events planned within the framework of international networks.

8. Supports internationalization of organizational governance which ensures integration of university's structural units and academic personnel in international educational processes.

8.1. The University supports review of the best international practice of partner universities within the scope of administrative mobility (incoming/outgoing) and their integration when necessary;

8.2. Performs modernization of the study process management system in accordance with the international experience.

8.3. Ensures support to enhancing qualification of the CU administrative personnel for the purpose of matching the study process and student services to international standards.

8.4. Cares for development of competences for integration of scholars in the international science area and offers respective trainings/ master classes.

8.5. Ensures conducting of the University's operational activities in Georgian and English languages.

8.6. Offers personnel retraining in foreign language and in the other required areas.

8.7. Informs them about various international internship or short-term retraining programs and supports their involvement.

8.8. Plans significant events in the area of social responsibility with engagement of students.

8.9. Cares for implementing and hosting events with respect to fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goals.