

International Black Sea University

Internationalization policy

Introduction

In the conditions of the modern global world, internationalization is the most important strategic priority of the International Black Sea University to train competitive, qualified personnel in the international market.

Today, internationalization is included in the agenda of almost all higher educational institutions (HEIs). The mentioned policy is also actively supported by the European Union; Accordingly, the internationalization of higher education is an important priority for Georgia as well.

This document describes the general directions of the university's internationalization policy, which is consistent with the unified national strategy of education and science of Georgia and the international standards of authorization or accreditation introduced by the National Center for the Development of Education Quality.

This document has been developed to internationalize the current educational processes at the International Black Sea University (hereinafter referred to as the University), based on the analysis of the activities carried out by the University and the relevant results, taking into account the past experience.

Description of the Internationalization Process

In accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) introduced in the country, International Black Sea University offers 26 educational programs of all three levels in English, which makes it possible to enroll international students and receive students and staff through exchange programs. Internationalization contributes to the improvement of the quality of teaching and learning and the development of programs.

In order to develop the quality of education at the university and bring it into line with international standards, the International Black Sea University is actively working on various directions of internationalization, so that university graduates can become competitive professionals in the international market, carrying democratic principles and European values.

To integrate into the international educational market, increase its importance, and gain credibility, the International Black Sea University actively cooperates with the universities of different countries of the world. Currently, the university has signed 45 memoranda, including 14 with the

universities of EU member states. IBSU is a member of the "Magna Carta Observatory" and fully shares the values of the mentioned organization, such as academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and the accompanying responsibility to society. IBSU is a member of the CEEMAN (Central and Eastern European Management Development Association) platform; A member of AUF (University Agency of Francophonie) and actively cooperates with the Agency of Francophonie in terms of inviting French language specialists; Also, every year he actively cooperates with the American Embassy within the project "English Language Fellow (EL Fellow) Program".

IBSU cooperates with partner universities and promotes participation in exchange programs of academic/administrative staff and students, organization, and support of international scientific conferences/projects. Within the framework of Erasmus+, university students and employees actively participate in various exchange programs in various European universities. In addition, the university is involved in ERASMUS+ CBHE (Capacity Development (Higher Education)) projects and international scientific projects.

The Department of International Relations is responsible for coordinating the implementation of exchange programs, cooperation with partner universities, and deepening relations with them. Students, administrative and academic staff from countries such as Poland, Portugal, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Spain, Czech Republic, Turkey, the United States of America participate in various exchange programs from the University. States, South Korea, etc.. The Department of International Relations has developed a strategy to make the selection procedures and services supporting student and staff mobility as transparent and easily accessible as possible. In addition, the university attracts foreign students, takes care of providing them with quality education, and creates an inclusive and comfortable environment.

In accordance with the university's seven-year strategic plan, the Department of International Relations plans to develop the university's internationalization policy in the following directions:

- 1) Institutional internationalization
- 2) Internationalization of teaching and learning
- 3) Internationalization of research

To achieve this goal, the university plans to:

- a) to establish active and effective communication with existing partners and. Increase the number of international partners by 10 percent every year. Work with partner universities to develop new English-language educational programs. Based on the mentioned partnerships, to facilitate the involvement of employees in international research activities; On the basis of the same partnerships, promote and increase the number of students and employees participating in the exchange program.
- b) to increase the number of foreign degree-seeking students; The goal of the university is to dramatically increase the number of foreign students in the university within 7 years.
- c) to join respectable international organizations, and to participate in international exhibitions and forums to raise awareness about the university. To take active actions to move the university to advanced positions in international ranking systems.

Mission of International Black Sea University

The mission of the International Black Sea University is to offer higher education based on the best practices of teaching, learning, and research, as a result of which it prepares a qualified, competitive generation with democratic values in line with the requirements of the local and international labor market.

Vision of International Black Sea University

The vision of International Black Sea University is to create a quality, innovative, international, modern learning and scientific environment based on diversity and equality, which will bring the university local and international recognition.

Strategic tasks of internationalization:

In the seven-year strategic development plan of the International Black Sea University, the strategic tasks of internationalization are distributed in all three benchmarks of the strategic map: a benchmark of customers, a benchmark of processes, and a benchmark of resources.

Consumer benchmarks:

- C2 - increasing the number of foreign students seeking degrees

- C3 - increasing the mobility of students through exchange programs

Benchmark of processes:

- P5 - internationalization at the level of educational programs
- P6 - raising awareness of the university and constant care for its image

Resource Benchmark:

- R5 - Internationalization at the level of academic and administrative staff

Activities to be implemented by International Black Sea University

C2 - Increasing the number of degree-seeking foreign students

Activities planned by the university:

- Provides services supporting enrollment procedures for foreign students.
- Prepares and distributes printed/electronic marketing materials to target groups, posting information on various portal(s).
- In accordance with the educational programs, it determines the target countries from which it wants to attract students and studies the specifics of their market to develop an appropriate attraction plan. In this regard, investigates and signs student attraction agreements with international agents/intermediary organizations.
- Develops and offers foreign students training programs adapted to the international labor market.

Measuring indicators:

- Number of degree-seeking foreign students in foreign language programs (by school)
- Rate of offering foreign language programs
- Number of international partners (by schools)

C3 - increasing the mobility of students through exchange programs

Activities planned by the university:

- Establish active and effective communication with existing partner universities.
- Finds new partners and sign cooperation agreements with European, American, and Asian universities, within the framework of which it implements exchange programs.
- Obtain funding from international donors to promote and encourage international mobility of students.
- Ensures the organization of appropriate competitions and the selection of students for participation in exchange programs according to the internal regulations of the university.
- Ensures the dissemination of information about relevant programs, projects, or offers to students.
- Participates in international educational exhibitions, summits, or forums and carries out campaigns to attract foreign students.
- To integrate foreign students and create a multicultural environment, plan various events.

Measuring indicators:

- Indicator of offers of foreign language educational programs and projects
- Quantitative index of exchange places on foreign language educational programs
- Number of foreign students participating in international programs at the university

P5 - Internationalization at the level of educational programs

Activities planned by the university:

- Determines the list of programs according to which foreign language educational programs will be developed.
- Collaborates with relevant higher education institutions to design and develop joint programs, as well as to obtain recognition of university programs and diplomas.
- As a result of sharing the experience of international partners, it introduces a modular teaching system.
- Develop summer schools and other short-term programs with relevant partners.

Measuring indicators:

- Number of internationally accredited foreign language educational programs (by schools)
- Quantification of joint and double degree programs.

P6 - raising awareness of the university and constant care for its image

Activities planned by the university:

- Actively works to find new local or international partners and sign cooperation agreements with them.
- Cooperates with the diplomatic corps and international partners and provides them with news about the university, inviting them to participate in university projects and events.
- Participates in international events and takes care of the university's membership in new international associations or professional networks.

Measuring indicators:

- Quantitative index of international partners.
- Membership rate in international organizations
- Quantitative rate of participation in international exhibitions of education

R5 - Internationalization at the level of academic and administrative staff

Activities planned by the university:

- Collaborates with existing and explores new international donors and partners to facilitate the mobility of academic or administrative staff.
- Facilitates academic and administrative staff mobility by providing appropriate support services and information;
- provides support and information to academic staff to participate in international projects and publish publications in international refereed journals;
- based on addressing the schools, ensure the visits of foreign specialists (if necessary, signing an agreement with them) to offer appropriate training for the administrative or academic staff of the university.

Measuring indicators:

- Quantitative rate of foreign lecturers (according to schools);
- Quantitative index of exchange programs offered for academic and administrative staff (university).

The mechanism of attracting foreign students to develop institutional internationalization:

One of the goals of institutional internationalization is to increase the number of foreign students. To achieve this goal, the university has developed mechanisms for attracting foreign students, which are facilitated by the following circumstances:

- English-speaking staff and educational programs of the university (for international students, communication during the admission process is carried out in English)
- Student support services (assistance in admissions procedures, translation and recognition of documents, assistance in submitting documents required for obtaining a visa);
- Semester meetings with foreign students to get to know their needs and views;
- Involvement of foreign students in bilateral exchange programs.

Mechanisms and procedures for attracting foreign personnel for the internationalization of teaching and learning

To internationalize teaching and learning, the university has developed mechanisms and procedures for attracting foreign personnel:

- To develop students educationally and to integrate them into the field of international education, the university actively takes care of attracting foreign staff. Based on this, IBSU actively cooperates with various partner international universities and organizations.
- In case of the need to invite a foreign specialist, the relevant school will send a request to the Department of International Relations via e-mail (iro@ibsu.edu.ge). Based on the interests of various educational programs, the university will seek and cooperate with experts in the relevant field. Schools determine the programs/courses they wish to invite foreign staff to. The rector of the university gives the final confirmation on the invitation of the foreign specialist.

- The Department of International Relations provides support services for foreign personnel, such as: providing documents necessary for the visa procedure, assisting in the process of finding housing, planning social activities, etc.