

# Internationalisation Strategy of the University of Vienna

## Leading Comprehensive Internationalisation

Internationalisation has clearly made its mark on academia and has become pivotal to universities' activities. The University of Vienna emphasizes a strategic and holistic approach to internationalisation throughout all areas of academia – research, education and service missions. The University of Vienna's international strategy is based on these three pillars. These strategic planning goals are supported by a range of core activities which serve to enhance an international, intercultural or global dimension of university life.

### Strategic Planning Goals

- Strengthening the university's research profile and research quality through international collaboration
- Enhancing the overall quality of education through internationalisation at home and abroad
- Contributing to strong international involvement in research and education through the internationalisation of service missions

The University of Vienna is committed to an EU-wide common research policy, and its activities contribute to the further development of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the European Research and Innovation Area (ERIA).

### Concerning the geographical dimension, the University of Vienna is pursuing the following strategy:

- Traditionally, the University of Vienna has strong ties to universities in Europe with due regard to Eastern and South Eastern Europe.
- Outside of Europe there is a particular focus on North America, since the University of Vienna liaises closely with this region in the realms of the Humanities as well as in the Sciences, as well as on East Asia, since the University of Vienna is the only Austrian University that offers Area Studies in this region and, thus, has built intensive scientific contacts that go beyond these subject areas

Moreover, the University of Vienna fosters capacity building in Higher Education in developing and newly industrialized countries through collaborative research and teaching activities.

## Strategic Initiatives

### Internationalisation of Research

Internationalisation of research is seen by the university as an instrument for strengthening the quality of its research and its competitiveness.

To internationalise its research, the university aims at:

- Promoting cooperation with the best universities and research institutions worldwide across a wide range of subject areas
- Establishing an exclusive set of high-profile partners in the form of Strategic Partnerships to ensure continuous successful performance as a research university in the context of global competition
- Increasing participation in international projects, especially in those activities arising out of the EU research programmes, and attracting more third-party funding
- Fostering links between academics from the University of Vienna and international colleagues within the framework of university networks
- Intensifying collaboration between academics from the University of Vienna and international colleagues with similar research foci in the form of joint research projects and joint publications
- Strengthening the recruitment and retention of distinguished and renowned international and national researchers

### Internationalisation of Education

The internationalisation of studying and teaching enhances the overall quality of education and takes place at home as well as abroad. Moreover, it broadens horizons, increases employability and prepares students and lecturers to become global professionals. To internationalise its education, the university aims at:

- Enhancing the outbound mobility of lecturers and students at all levels (i.e. Bachelor, Master and PhD level) in terms of quality and successful outcomes
- Providing mobility windows in curricula for students to enable more embedded mobility at the Bachelor and Master level
- Increasing the second and foreign language proficiency of both students and lecturers and strengthening intercultural competences to participate and teach in an international classroom and in a global context
- Providing more opportunities for students and lecturers to gain international experience at home, for instance, through (further) development of internationalised curricula, through the use of guest lectures and digital collaboration tools (i.e. digital classroom) and through the University's quality-assured univie: summer/winter school initiatives
- (Further) development of study programmes (master's/PhD) conducted in a language other than German

- Attracting international students through non-degree seeking programmes (i.e. Visiting-PhD and Visiting-MA Students)
- Recruiting highly talented international students into master's and doctoral/PhD courses
- Increasing international internship placements
- Developing an international (researcher and student) alumni network to stay in touch with international graduates

### Internationalisation of Service Missions

The internationalisation of service missions contributes actively to strong international involvement in research and education. To internationalise its service mission, the university aims at:

- Raising the outbound mobility of administrative staff
- Increasing the English language proficiency and intercultural competence of administrative staff
- Providing printed and web-based information in English for international students and lecturers

### Intended Internationalisation: Monitoring

In order to make achieving these goals measurable and verifiable, a catalogue of central internationalisation measures was developed. Evaluations of current developments and the aforementioned activities/objectives are carried out yearly to monitor progress and to pinpoint areas for improvement.

The monitoring system is an important element of the university's evidence-based management system. The topic of internationalisation has also been given close attention in the University's development plan, the University's internal target-setting agreements as well as in the Agreement on Achievement ("Leistungsvereinbarung") with the Federal Ministry for Science, Research and Economics.

