



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK TIRANA

I N T E R N A T I O N A L I Z A T I O N S T R A T E G Y
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Preamble

UNYT sees internationalization as a central component of its overall strategic development and mission.

International Relations Office (IRO) was established with the Senate decision No. 22 / 29.09.2016. IRO was established to serve in internationalization strategy of UNYT. Its operations were planned to be covered by the IRO officer under the supervision of the Rector of the university. UNYT is committed to provide to its students the best international experience opportunities by increasing the mobility programs, as one of the main goals of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

This internationalization strategy is amended to come in line with the aims and objectives of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (hereafter cited as ISP 2020-2025) and enters in power with the Senate Decision.

It is a clear thought at UNYT that “we live in a global age in which education and research span traditional, national and international boundaries”. Ideas, resources and competition for students is greater than ever before. UNYT’s future plan, like its past, is to continue increasingly in a network of international collaborations. The Strategy enables UNYT to consolidate and enhance our global presence across all our activities.

UNYT commits to increasing the number of international students, increasing collaborative research with international partners by a third, and ensuring that the vast majority of our programs feature meaningful international content. We will establish a range of measures to encourage and support international links in the areas of research, teaching and knowledge exchange. These will be founded on the University’s academic strengths and the long-term research ambitions of departments and interdisciplinary centers, and will include research mobility funds, seminar and conference support, exchange programs, support for early career academics, and a program of international profile-building.

We are currently performing well internationally across a wide range of areas, as evidenced by global university rankings. The Rector and a number of colleagues within the University have played a pivotal role in acting as ambassadors for the University and in developing and fostering international awareness of what we do.

In this regard, the main objectives of International Relations Office (IRO) are:





1. Building an international activity which is rooted in the academic strengths of the University;
2. Enhancing the international opportunity for students;
3. Strengthening regional cooperation and people-to-people connectivity;
4. Providing a channel for international communication;
5. Liaising with relevant University stakeholders.

Mission:

UNYT Mission Statement requires shifting intellectual assets and resources from a local to a global setting. The transformations brought about by globalizing capitalism, the information revolution, technological innovations, and increasingly multicultural societies call for faculty and staff creativity – localized and globalized – to prepare students for the challenges of a globalized job market.

Definition & Context:

The term “internationalization” denotes the process of shifting efforts, intellectual assets and resources from local to a global higher education environment. This process was felt as a necessity in acknowledgement that the new era of globalization demands profound changes in HEI policies, practices, volumes, emphasis and trends. The transformations brought about by the globalizing capitalism, the information revolution, technological innovations, multi-ethnic markets, multicultural societies and cross-disciplinary requirements call for faculty and student contextualized multiple intelligence, creativity and individualized – localized and globalized – life-long learning.

Internationalization should be established as a crosscutting element pervading in the institutional strategy and policy. This would help ensure its links with every domain of university life, and thus promote an understanding of internationalization as a key component of high-quality education.





1) Levels of Internationalization & Synergies:

In pursuit of UNYT's ISP 2020-2025 Strategic Goals #3 and #6, internationalization at UNYT is meant at multiple levels:

- 1.1. Internationalization of student population (ISP 2020-2025, Strategic Goal 3.2).
- 1.2. Internationalization of faculty (ISP 2020-2025, Strategic Goal 3.1).
- 1.3. Maintenance and Enhancement of a Network of International Partnerships (ISP 2020-2025, Strategic Goal 3 & 6), also extended in research and development disciplines.
- 1.4. Development of Exchange Programmes for Students, academic staff and researchers (ISP 2020-2025, Strategic Goal 3).
- 1.5. Internationalization of policies and practices (state standards and QAA accreditation expectations).

2) International Educational Cooperation and Networking Strategies

UNYT is committed to internationalization and accordingly, it aims to establish and maintain national and regional recognition as one of the foremost institutions of higher education in Albania and the region. It seeks actively to collaborate with the best EU and non-EU educational institutions in order to establish an internationally recognized curriculum and learn from the best practices of leading universities. Internationalization strengthens the reputation of UNYT, therefore increasing international presence and creating support structures with the help of leading institutions abroad is of utmost importance.

Through the planned mobilities, we will be able to encourage academic staff to develop teaching skills as well as deliver knowledge at international standards. Therefore we aim to encourage academic staff and young researchers to participate in teaching and training mobilities in order to gain international academic experience. Also, these mobilities have encouraged administrative staff in participating in trainings to developing good administration practices in order to improve the overall administration performance.

In this regard, UNYT's action plans are:

- Increase the number of international partnerships with leading universities.
- Cooperate with Embassies and other international governmental organizations in Tirana in order to build relationships in international education.
- Create synergies for collaborative projects with universities abroad for joint research funding opportunities.





- Maintain relationships with the National Erasmus + Office in Tirana and the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (Albania) in order to receive information on grant opportunities and other possible cooperation opportunities.
- Further internationalize joint-degree programs (such as with SUNY/ESC) and academic cooperation by seeking the help of international academic specialists through programs like Fulbright, Erasmus +, Mevlana, etc.

3) UNYT Goals on the Internationalization Strategy:

Goal 1 – Offering an International Educational Environment

One of the most important objectives of UNYT is to create an international educational environment by offering students and staff international academic experience. UNYT strives to become the leading university in Albania for mobility opportunities. The IRO will continue to create structures to increase mobility, through new exchange agreements with regional, EU and world partners, which will facilitate short-term programs for mutual exchange.

Objectives:

- Increase number of universities that are partner countries within the framework of the Erasmus+ Program (K107).
- Increase number of bilateral agreements (MoUs) with universities encouraging student and staff mobility possibilities.

Through **student mobilities** we are working each time to:

- Promote international programs, projects and activities in order to attract students' interest to participate in.
- Assist students in developing an international and multicultural profile by gaining significant academic experience at partner institutions abroad.
- Prepare graduates to perform in multicultural societies
- Creating structures and improving conditions in order to attract students from the region, EU and all over the world for short or long term stay at UNYT.
- Develop a summer school program to increase the number of students who visit UNYT
- UNYT has established criteria for selection of outgoing and incoming students, namely it has a Selection Committee (composed of professors of respective Departments and the IRO Officer) that evaluates the applications primarily on their academic performance.
- Promote recognition of the periods of studies abroad as an added value in building professional career paths





Goal 2: - Global Mobility

As mentioned previously, UNYT's internationalization strategy makes it possible for our university to be internationally well-known and broadening its network each year. Over the next five years we will:

- Continue the process of internationalizing our academic portfolio with content and delivery modes appropriate for on-campus and distance learning;
- Provide greater access to student and staff exchange options to give international experiences and stimulate further interactions;
- Increase on-campus student numbers and invest in recruitment channels and activities;
- Enhance international transnational education (TNE) partnerships to ensure they deliver both high-quality academic outcomes and financial success; and
- Develop collaborative research with international partners that increases funding and output citation rates.

Internationalization requires well-trained personnel in order to reach international teaching and research standards. UNYT strives to promote international teaching and research staff exchange programs as well as other specialized programs in order to gain intercultural competences. The IRO has established criteria for selection of outgoing and incoming teaching and research staff, through the creation of a Selection Committee (composed of Deans of respective Faculties and the IRO Officer) that evaluates applicants primarily on their teaching and research proposals.

Objectives:

- Encourage academic staff to develop teaching skills as well as deliver knowledge at international standards.
- Encourage academic staff and young researchers to participate in teaching and training mobilities in order to gain international academic experience.
- Encourage young researchers to develop as international researchers by applying to programs like Horizon 2020 and other research opportunities.
- Assist academic staff and researchers in global networking and developing long-term strategic research collaborations with partner institutions.

Staff Development:

Internationalization requires the appropriate support structures and staff personnel in order to reach international standards of education.

Objectives:

- Encourage the staff to participate in international trainings to learn good administration procedures and best practices.
- We will continue to develop a strong international focus and awareness in all our staff and in all that we do.





Goal 3 – International Student & Staff Recruitment

UNYT will increase on-campus international student numbers and invest in recruitment channels and activities. Our aspiration is to become a place of first choice in Albania and the region.

This objective will be made possible through:

- Developing a portfolio of joint/dual/double Masters and PhD programmes with high-quality international institutions;
- Increasing the number of sponsorship agreements, ensure recognition in key markets and by appropriate Ministries;
- Ensure the international students have the opportunity to succeed through the provision of excellent student support and experience;
- Attract qualified international academics and researchers through different programs and due to the fact that our studies are offered only in English language and they will have the chance to work in an international university.

Goal 4 - International Campus and Regional Impact

UNYT's is working of the construction of an international campus committed to multicultural values. This can also be achieved by increasing the number of international academic staff. It is only through internationalization and by developing and maintaining a regional presence as one of the strongest universities in the Western Balkans that UNYT can achieve long-term sustainability in teaching and research. Through the Internationalization Strategy, UNYT will work to achieve its mission of educating and preparing the future leaders of Albania.

Objectives:

- Increase the cross-cultural awareness as well as improve language skills of the incoming/outgoing students through the mobility programs;
- Increase the partnership through Erasmus + and MEVLANA programs;
- Having a proactive role in the international organizations where UNYT adhere such as; Balkan University Association and European University Association;
- Broaden the institution's network resulting in Higher Inter-Institutional Agreements with regional and international HEIs;
- Strengthen the international recognition of the university in all countries.





Conclusion

The aspiration and reach of this internationalization strategy are necessarily broad, as internationalization touches on a wide range of activity within the University. It is not something that can or should be set in stone – it will need to be refined in the light of what we learn as we take this agenda forward and take account of the inevitably fast-changing external context. Both of these factors mean that success will be dependent on the energy, goodwill and outward-looking attitude of colleagues throughout the University. Given that support and engagement, building on our existing international strengths and connections, we aspire to become a place of first choice in the minds of the world.

The seal is circular with a blue border. Inside the border, the text "UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK TIRANA" is written in a circular path. In the center of the seal is a stylized white silhouette of the Statue of Liberty.

Prof. Dr. Ismail KOCAYUSUFOGLU

Rector

