Global presence – global responsibility
UiO’s Action Plan for Internationalisation 2012-2014

Internationalisation
UiO: University of Oslo
UiO’s Action Plan for Internationalisation 2012-2014

By 2020, UiO will be considerably more visible, attractive and involved in the international arena than it is at present. Current global perspectives regarding the roles, responsibilities and academic focus of universities play a more fundamental role in their strategic directions than previously. The goal of developing UiO into a university that transcends boundaries is an expression of the combined results that will stem from the following ambitions: that the University of Oslo will undertake pioneering research, education and dissemination activities, and be a highly desirable international partner.

In accordance with Strategy 2020, increased international collaboration will focus in particular on long-term collaborative relationships that promote quality, stimulate academic growth and strengthen interaction between research, education and innovation. At the same time, UiO’s international involvement will continue to honour the principles of both solidarity and self-development.

This action plan contributes to the realisation of the university’s ambitions by defining 26 targeted initiatives that in turn link to the strategies defined in Strategy 2020 that have particular relevance to establishing UiO’s position as a leading international research university. During the three-year period of this action plan, initiatives will be prioritised that are directed towards the following four focus areas:

1. Mobilisation for global challenges
2. Strategic collaboration
3. International profiling of study programmes and research
4. Competency and capacity building for internationalisation

This plan does not provide an exhaustive description of all the work relating to internationalisation at UiO. Rather, it focuses on strategies that require input from new initiatives and that need to be coordinated across UiO’s diverse areas of interest. This plan will function in conjunction with other plans and initiatives that have already been adopted by the university and which are now under implementation. Of specific relevance are the HR Action Plan for Academic Staff and UiO’s Gender Equality Action Plan 2010-2012. UiO’s rolling Annual Plan from 2010 also contains a number of central/important initiatives regarding internationalisation. UiO is planning to adopt an action plan for innovation in 2012 of which internationalisation will be an integral part.

The individual faculties are expected to promote internationalisation by including relevant goals and initiatives in their own planning procedures and internationalisation will be a central theme in all planning discussions.

This action plan has been approved by the Board of the University of Oslo, June 2011.

Stronger internationalisation
Global Challenges

The University of Oslo will enhance academic initiatives that address global challenges through pioneering research, cross-disciplinary projects and taught courses.

Strategy 2010 states that UiO aims to make significant contributions to the knowledge base that is needed in order to address the major global challenges of today. In the decade ahead, these challenges will be the foremost drivers of change in the role of universities and in catalysing academic collaboration and partnerships between strong research communities and institutions. National, European and Nordic research funding will also converge and work together to ensure that appropriate knowledge, development and innovation occurs to meet these challenges. The University of Oslo is well positioned to make important contributions to this research by further developing its prioritised academic areas, including nurturing high-performing academic units and focusing on cross-disciplinary research areas and study programmes.

The specific initiatives are based on Strategy 1 and Strategy 7, as defined in Strategy 2020.

Strategies:

1. The strength represented by the academic breadth of the university will be utilised even better through cross-disciplinary research and education. Adequate funding mechanisms will be developed for interdisciplinary activities and temporary initiatives.

2. The University of Oslo will offer educative initiatives that can and should be better utilised. UiO’s academic communities are broadly involved in academic collaborations in regions and countries outside of Europe. To further develop such institutional collaborations UiO will concentrate its efforts during the next few years on selected countries where: a) faculties as a whole already have an established level of involvement, there is strong potential for increased collaborations, and there are funding opportunities, and where b) collaboration with low-income countries in the Global South can be built upon mutual areas of interest and established collaborative projects and networks.

3. An international “advisory board” will be created to support UiO’s strategic development (2011).

4. Strategic and stable partnerships are critical for attracting international funding to collaborative research and educational activities. Such funding is a prerequisite to achieving the objectives set out in this action plan (see also several of the initiatives in the Annual Plan for 2012-2014, particularly those focused on increased financing from the EU).

5. The initiatives are based on Strategy 2 and Strategy 3, as defined in Strategy 2020. Strategy 3 is also relevant as part of the initiative “International programmes”.

Initiatives:

1. Existing cross-disciplinary initiatives will be evaluated (2012). The aim is to undertake an institution-wide evaluation, during which the university’s potential to contribute to solving global challenges will be one of the important factors under consideration.

2. UiO will prioritise the development of strategic partnerships with leading universities in regions and countries outside of Europe. To further develop such institutional collaborations UiO will concentrate its efforts during the period covered by the action plan, the university will work systematically on further developing bilateral partnerships with Nordic and European universities at the institutional and/or faculty level. The Nordic countries also have opportunities for joint initiatives that can and should be better utilised. UiO’s academic communities are broadly involved in academic collaborations in regions and countries outside of Europe. To further develop such institutional collaborations UiO will concentrate its efforts during this period will focus on USA, Japan, Brazil, Russia, India and China, and selected countries in the Global South.

3. ii) The initiatives are based on Strategy 2 and Strategy 3, as defined in Strategy 2020. Strategy 3 is also relevant as part of the initiative “International programmes”.

4. Academic priority areas will be reviewed in light of their contribution to solving global challenges and their potential for increasing strategic partnerships with leading universities (after the completion of the institutional evaluation).

5. Good partnerships, alliances and networks are resources of increasing importance to academic collaboration, competitiveness in recruitment and funding, and strategic influence. During the period of the action plan, UiO wishes to become a member of a strategic university alliance of excellent research universities.

6. UiO’s involvement and participation in the European and Nordic research and education regional programmes are increasing. In the period covered by the action plan, the university will work systematically on further developing bilateral partnerships with Nordic and European universities at the institutional and/or faculty level. The Nordic countries also have opportunities for joint initiatives that can and should be better utilised. UiO’s academic communities are broadly involved in academic collaborations in regions and countries outside of Europe. To further develop such institutional collaborations UiO will concentrate its efforts during the next few years on selected countries where: a) faculties as a whole already have an established level of involvement, there is strong potential for increased collaborations, and there are funding opportunities, and where b) collaboration with low-income countries in the Global South can be built upon mutual areas of interest and established collaborative projects and networks.

7. Strategic and stable partnerships are critical for attracting international funding to collaborative research and educational activities. Such funding is a prerequisite to achieving the objectives set out in this action plan (see also several of the initiatives in the Annual Plan for 2012-2014, particularly those focused on increased financing from the EU).

8. The initiatives are based on Strategy 2 and Strategy 3, as defined in Strategy 2020. Strategy 3 is also relevant as part of the initiative “International programmes”.

Initiatives:

1. The university’s international involvement shall be greater, e.g. through increased participation in selective strategic partnerships and in the European Research Area.

2. All educational programmes will be given an international profile and cooperation with foreign institutions will be increased in order to achieve greater relevance and a higher level of quality.

3. Strategic and stable partnerships are critical for attracting international funding to collaborative research and educational activities. Such funding is a prerequisite to achieving the objectives set out in this action plan (see also several of the initiatives in the Annual Plan for 2012-2014, particularly those focused on increased financing from the EU).

4. The university’s international involvement shall be greater, e.g. through increased participation in selective strategic partnerships and in the European Research Area.

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International programmes

The University of Oslo will offer research-based education of a standard equivalent to that offered by the foremost international places of learning. A variety of different initiatives will contribute to UiO’s efforts to reach the level of leading international universities with regard to the choice of programme on offer, the learning environment, the pedagogical quality and international student recruitment. Part of the action plan, the faculties are expected to develop the international profile of their study programmes through facilitating greater student mobility and successful inclusion of international students in the learning environment. There is also a need for a clearer target prioritisation of recruitment from non-EU students and in particular of those who will complete their entire master’s degree at UiO.

UiO’s ambitious plan of creating twenty joint degrees with foreign universities (as detailed in Strategy 2020) implies that relevant areas and partnerships should be identified early on within the period covered by the action plan.

STRAATEGIES:

3. All educational programmes will be given an international profile and cooperation with foreign institutions will be increased in order to achieve greater relevance and a higher level of quality.

10. Research training will be further developed in order to be internationally attractive and future-oriented. PhD candidates will be integrated into active research units.

INITIATIVES:

13. The faculties will analyse their current study programmes with respect to consideration of what is required to achieve the vision of being the bachelor’s and master’s programmes having international profiles, in both the short and long term. The faculties will then implement relevant measures to achieve these goals (analysis 2012, implementation initiatives by 2014).

15. All study programmes must implement relevant measures that would serve as a prerequisite to UiO achieving its ambitions with respect to research training. The initiatives below relate to Strategy 3 and Strategy 10, as defined in Strategy 2020.

16. The portfolio of student exchange agreements must be reviewed and revised, and work must be intensified on establishing partnerships and beneficial exchange agreements with excellent, leading universities. This includes increasing the number of agreements based on research collaborations (2012-2013).

17. In the development of UiO’s programme portfolio, more-strategic use of EU programmes and Nordic initiatives for collaboration on study programmes and student exchanges will be prioritised (2012-2014).

18. UiO shall develop a clear, common policy for the creation of joint degrees at master’s and doctoral levels, based upon current research collaborations (2012).

The initiatives that aim to ensure that UiO’s doctoral programmes are at the forefront of how future researchers are trained are part of an independent project in 2011-2012. Internationalisation of the doctoral programmes will be strengthened and promoted through this project (for instance, through greater student mobility and the development of international generic skills) and through the role these programmes play as engines for international collaboration. The faculties are expected to arrange opportunities that lead to a clearer target prioritisation of recruitment from non-EU students and in particular of those who will complete their entire master’s degree at UiO.

The initiatives below relate to Strategy 3 and Strategy 10, as defined in Strategy 2020.

19. UiO will improve the quality and internationalisation of its education in English and other foreign languages (2012-2013).

20. UiO will provide English-medium training for international Heads of Department (2012-2013).

The initiatives below relate particularly to Strategies 26, 27 and 28 (and 4), as defined in Strategy 2020.

The current action plan complements these previous plans, and aims to promote UiO as an inclusive campus and an attractive employer for the ever increasing number of international researchers and incoming international students.

The initiatives below relate to Strategy 26, 27 and 28 (and 4), as defined in Strategy 2020.

23. Courses in pedagogy at the University of Oslo will include elements that enable the lecturers to provide an international and learning environment (2012-2014).

24. UiO’s new training programme for Heads of Education must include international educational collaborations and the facilitation of international classrooms (2012-14).

25. The availability of accommodation for foreign employees will be expanded through the rental/purchase of additional premises (2013-14).

26. UiO will be a driving force for increasing the provision of student housing and will maintain the housing guarantee for incoming international students (2012-12).

As part of the “The University of My Choice” objective described in Strategy 2020, strategies are defined that aim to result in better support for individual researchers, academic communities and UiO’s overall success when working with international educational collaborations and international funding. These strategies are also intended to lead to the further development UiO as an international campus.

The initiatives below relate particularly to Strategies 26, 27 and 28 (and 4), as defined in Strategy 2020.

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