

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-21

Signed by Rector Ole Petter Ottersen on 14 May 2013

Overall Strategy

UiO's strategy is set out in *Strategy 2020*, which views internationalisation as an integrated vehicle for quality development in all areas.

In a ten year perspective, national as well as global expectations for universities will increase. The key to future scientific breakthroughs is a stronger focus on academic quality, good leadership, good working and learning environments and closer integration of the core activities of research, teaching, communication and innovation.

Internationalisation will help UiO meet national objectives. Through international cooperation and recruitment, UiO will ensure that there is adequate knowledge and essential expertise for the further development of Norwegian society.

International collaboration will focus in particular on long-term collaborative relationships that promote quality, stimulate academic growth and strengthen the interaction between research, education and innovation. UiO will be more selective and purposeful in its institutional cooperation and give priority to long-term cooperation with highly rated institutions and enterprises. UiO's international involvement will also continue to honour the principles of solidarity and self-development.

Research environments will contribute to the international research front and participate in productive international networks. UiO will play an active role in Nordic cooperation and in the European Research Area. Particular emphasis will be given to increasing grants from the European Research Council and participation in major European projects for infrastructure for research, innovation and knowledge transfer.

The internationalisation of study programmes will be enhanced through strategic partnerships with leading universities, with a view to setting up joint programmes, recruiting more foreign students and increasing the number of international lecturers. UiO's faculties are expected to develop the international profile of their study programmes and facilitate increased student mobility and successful inclusion of international students. The faculties are expected to promote internationalisation by including relevant goals and initiatives in their own planning procedures.

Mobility activities

a) Choice of partners

UiO follows a principle of subsidiarity in its choice of partners to ensure the viability of international agreements. Partnerships and mobility agreements should be based on mutual interest between academic staff at both institutions, and decisions made at the departmental level. Cross-disciplinary partnerships may be initiated on the faculty or central level. At the institutional level, UiO seeks to identify a limited number of strategic partnerships aimed to encourage cutting-edge research, innovation, education and dissemination.

b) Geographical areas

As a European and Nordic university, UiO's participation in European and Nordic research and education programmes is increasing. The university will work systematically to further develop its partnerships within the region, and more strategic use of EU programmes and Nordic initiatives for collaboration on study programmes and student exchanges will be prioritised.

At the institutional level, UiO's collaboration with countries outside of Europe will focus on USA, Japan, Brazil, Russia, India and China, and selected countries in the Global South.



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c) Important objectives and target groups of mobility activities

All bachelor's, master's and PhD programmes will recommend mobility activities for all students and provide information about the appropriate window for foreign exchanges and potential places of study. The portfolio of exchange agreements will be reviewed with a view to establish partnerships with leading universities and agreements based on research collaboration.

PhD programmes will be strengthened and used as a driving force for international collaboration. The faculties are expected to make arrangements to for a fundamental increase in PhD mobility, and identify academic areas and partnerships that can achieve top levels of quality and/or a critical mass of students through the creation of joint programmes.

Staff exchanges will be used systematically with highly rated foreign institutions and enterprises to increase the academic quality and relevance of the teaching content.

Joint degrees

UiO has adopted a set of guidelines for the establishment of joint degrees. Joint degrees will be developed with leading international universities in strong fields where cooperation will give an academic added value. The programmes should be robust and sustainable, encompass both education and research and must be sufficiently anchored at all levels of the organisation.

Over the next years, UiO aims to significantly increase the number of joint degrees at master's and PhD levels, based upon existing research collaboration.

International cooperation projects in teaching and training

In line with *Strategy 2020*, UiO will work towards:

- Increased innovation and transfer of knowledge by opening the university to private and public enterprises, NGOs and the general public.
- Strategic collaboration with universities and private and public enterprises to promote cutting-edge research, education and dissemination.
- Closer dialogue with the authorities and with the businesses in the local region.
- Closer collaboration with research institutes and public and private enterprises to respond to societal challenges.
- Improved cooperation with the public and private sector to give the students advantages in the labour market.

Cooperation projects that will be implemented will include:

- Long-term strategic partnerships with selected universities within the EU and in the prioritised target countries outside the EU, with a particular emphasis on collaboration that encompasses both education and research.
- Strategic cooperation with universities and enterprises, national and regional authorities in Norway, the Nordic countries and the EU with a view to promote innovation and knowledge transfer. Activities could include e.g. student placements, thesis work, case work, staff exchanges, evaluation and development of programmes of study, participation in research projects in enterprises, consulting, board membership and joint ventures.
- Cooperation with schools, HEI, regional and local authorities within Norway and other European countries for the development of schools, teacher education programmes, e-learning, and teaching and evaluation methodology across different educational sectors.
- Cooperation and capacity building projects with institutions in developing countries based on academic quality and reciprocity. UiO will give special priority to international cooperation on the major global challenges. Activities will be developed in conjunction with existing national and bilateral programmes.

Modernisation

UiO's participation in the Programme will contribute to the modernisation of the university through:

1. Increasing attainment levels by

- Attracting new groups of national and international student groups to new joint degree programmes and other types of joint blended/virtual mobility programmes in conjunction with international partner universities.
- Opening the university to international students from underrepresented groups, e.g. students with disabilities.
- Improved student retention, pass and throughput rates through better integration of mobility in all study programmes.
- Equipping graduates and PhD candidates with research skills through closer integration of research and education in mobility and cooperation projects.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education by

- Promoting innovation and increasing student employability through student placements, staff exchanges and strategic cooperation with enterprises within and outside Norway.
- Closer academic supervision of placements.
- Involving national and international public and private enterprises in cooperation projects aimed to improve the design and delivery of courses and programmes of study.
- Developing new forms of ICT-based teaching and learning in collaboration with national and international partners.
- Systematically using staff exchanges to ensure the academic quality and relevance of the teaching content.
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3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation by

- Introducing mobility windows and clear mobility recommendations in all study programmes.
- Successful inclusion of international students in the learning environment.
- Recognising credits gained abroad through quality assurance of mobilities and agreements, use of ECTS and DS.

4. Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development by

- Strategic cooperation with universities and enterprises, national and regional authorities to promote innovation and knowledge transfer.
- Cooperation with schools, HEI, regional and local authorities for the development of schools and education across different educational sectors.
- Strengthening knowledge-transfer infrastructure and UiO's capacity to engage in joint ventures as part of our strategic cooperation with international businesses and HEI.

5. Improving governance and funding by

- Basing partnerships and cooperation projects on institutional strengths and scientific priorities.
- Allowing for differentiated international strategies and differentiated use of mobility and cooperation projects in different academic fields based on analyses of the needs of different scientific environments.
- Further developing UiO's services for mobile researchers and retaining the HR Excellence in Research logo.
- Systematically using staff exchanges as part of the development of the competencies of individual staff members and the development of UiO's programmes of study and collaboration projects.