



IBSU

**INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY LLC
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DOCUMENTS**

INTERNATIONALIZATION POLICY (2018-2025)

Approved on 23/02/2018 by Academic Board - Minutes №3 (Appendix №:1)

Approvals

The signatures below certify that this quality manual has been reviewed and accepted and demonstrates that the signatories are aware of all the requirements contained herein and are committed to ensuring their provision.

Prepared by: Vice-rector for External Relations _____

Controlled by: Legal Office _____

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IBSU PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

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CONTENTS

Amendments..... 3

Revision List 4

1. Background 5

2. Mission and Vision 5

3. Policy Statement 6

4. Recruiting Mechanisms..... 6

5. Education 7

6. Policy Goals 9

7. Expanding International Network..... 12

Amendments

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Revision List

#	Date	Article	Remarks
01	27.02.2018	2	Mission and Vision
02	27.02.2018	4	Recruiting Mechanisms
03	27.02.2018	7	Mechanisms for Developing International Cooperation
04	15.05.2019	4	Recruiting Mechanisms

1. Background

Higher education plays and holds an important role to develop its citizens economically and socially. Countries worldwide are interconnected; organizations and companies operate without many boundaries, so higher education has become global player too.

Internationalization is now almost every higher education institution's (HEI) agenda. Variety of academic, economic political and social goals, forces governments to implement policies and strategies to promote higher education internationalization. Due to the globalization process student mobility, scholar mobility and research collaboration, cross-border education, internationalization at home, and related issues have become a new trend. The EU, in this regard, also promotes internationalization to a great extent. Therefore, internationalization of higher education is one of the top priorities of Georgia.

International Black Sea University (hereafter as IBSU) strives to develop its educational quality to offer the best education possible to local and international students. We want our graduates to be able to live and work in the global world.

This document outlines IBSU's internationalization policy strategy in accordance to Georgia's national policy on internationalization.

This document is developed through the activities carried out at IBSU before 2017-2018 academic year according to the goal of internationalization of the educational processes, based on analysis of the results of those activities and past experience of IBSU. This document is reviewed at the beginning of every academic year, in order to apply any changes or updates in current policies.

2. Mission and Vision

2.1. Mission of IBSU

International Black Sea University focuses on professionally-oriented high-quality education and applied research emphasizing innovation, internationalization and lifelong learning. IBSU strives to promote intercultural dialogue, sustain a high employment rate of graduates in domestic and international labor market and contribute to the development of a democratic civil society.

2.2. Vision of IBSU

IBSU will take strides in becoming an internationally recognized university for its educational excellence, management efficiency, research output, and societal engagement, having the necessary environment for its students and staff to be advocates of global human values, and lifelong learning.

3. Policy Statement

IBSU's strategic plan is based on past year experiences, working and collaborating with various institutions, organizations, agencies, etc. and future, emerging opportunities that create lifelong learning opportunities. Perception is to create and developed educated global citizens.

Strategic Goal of Internationalization is:

- To Prepare graduates to perform and communicate proficiently and delicately in globalized world;
- Develop collaborative links between international institutions;
- Motivate staff to develop themselves as international researchers and be involved in learning-teaching, mentoring and on international level;
- Encourage staff and students to be involved in lifelong learning process in order to become so called 'world citizens'.

As a result of this policy:

- Internationalization of the student experience and educational processes implemented at IBSU will allow students and staff to carry out the activities at international level, including to provide with international trainings and educational programs;
- IBSU will develop international partnership opportunities in education, research and increase qualification, which in turn will promote university to deepen partnerships with international institutions, to create lifelong learning opportunities for the IBSU community including university students, staff, alumni, partners, etc.

4. Recruiting Mechanisms

IBSU is committed to increase the contingent of international students. International students have different reasons to choose educational programs particularly based on country locations. Accordingly, there are many recruitment strategies to attract students. International students' movement caused the

shifts in demographic indicators and increased number of mobility students, and increased cost of higher education. IBSU follows those trends and plans recruiting in accordance.

In accordance of international students' movement, considering as well different economic-social factors, IBSU has developed several recruiting mechanisms:

- Participating in international Educational Fairs;
- Bilateral agreements with international partner universities on student and staff exchange and mobility;
- Agreements with international partner universities on student and staff exchange and mobility within the framework of Erasmus+ projects;
- Agreements with local and international recruiting agencies;
- Online platform- Keystone Academic Solutions;
- Alumni network;
- Social Media presence;
- Cooperation with Study in Georgia project;
- Discount system for international students.

The strategy of recruiting mechanisms is supported by:

- Bilingual staff of IBSU and Educational Programmes;
- Student support services (Assistance in admissions process - document translation, recognition process, providing necessary documents for Visa submission).

4.1. **The future goals of recruiting mechanisms**

IBSU will implement new practices to increase international students' number and internationalization, as follows:

- Visiting international high schools and universities in pre-defined market;
- Participating in recruiting trip to attract the target groups.

5. **Education**

IBSU promotes educational development of its staff and students; actively develops international collaboration opportunities on student mobility, staff and student exchanges, as well as research perspectives.

Georgia is a country that has been taking strides into EU integration. The Association Agreement signed between EU and Georgia paves the way for Georgian citizens for visa free travel within the

boundaries of EU territory. Therefore, the government has been paying much attention to the internationalization of the higher education institutions, especially with Europe. According to the European Transfer Credit System (ECTS) already implemented in the country, IBSU offers around 26 educational programs in English Language at three cycles in order to enroll more international students and receive students and staff members through exchange programs. The vision of IBSU implies that internationalization promotes the quality of teaching and curriculum building.

5.1. Student and staff exchange

IBSU is a member of various national, regional and international associations, and has signed the memorandum of understanding with around 100 Georgian and international universities. The exchange program is implemented by International Relations Office in charge of strengthening ties between the partner universities, approximately 50-60 exchange students are selected per year to continue their studies in Poland, Portugal, Latvia, Lithuania, France, Spain, Czech Republic, Turkey, USA, China, South Korea, and etc.

With these initiatives:

- The university bilateral exchange programs are constantly updated and expanded;
- Admissions procedures for all international students are communicated in English;
- University encourages staff to be actively involved in visiting partner universities for short and long-term periods;
- University seeks to increase the number of international staff by cooperating with partner institutions.

5.2. Student Mobility

University educational programs at all level allow local and international student mobility. It applies to all cycle of education. The process goes through the National Center for Education Quality Enhancement, LEPL. IBSU sees the student exchange opportunity not only as an educational event, but a cultural and career development event as well. The exchange serves the regional and global peace by letting people get to know one another. A possible KA¹ agreement European universities will also pave the way for the Georgian students to collaborate with their peers.

- The university is actively participating in international student mobility programs;
- The university support services for student mobility will be more flexible and easily accessible for the prospective students.

6. Policy Goals

IBSU is committed to support and develop policies and strategies to support internationalization by academic, economic, political and social-cultural perspective. All of these four dimensions are interconnected which creates direction for institutions long-term internationalization.

6.1. Academic

¹ Key Action 1

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- Improving education quality - Staff and student exchange, mobility programs, international collaborations, etc.;
 - Knowledge advancement - Scholar mobility's, institutional research collaborations, etc., is the basis to create and develop knowledge.
 - Expanding education capacity - Assisting and providing opportunity to the students and staff for higher education development. It is a direction that creates many quality educational opportunities for the citizens.
 - Prestige and ranking - To create and have world class university, university works with ranking international organizations. It puts university on international radar, where potential students, staff, future partners, etc., can have the first look. Creating relationships and partnerships increases prestige on the international level, as well as on local.

6.2. **Economic**

- Short-term economic benefit - Internationalization brings direct economic contribution through tuition, and diversity to the local community they live
- Workforce development - Allows local students and staff to be in the same environment with international colleagues. It increases workplace development, as it results in education experience, work skills development, and makes citizens more skillful to be global community members.
- Long term economic benefit - Provides opportunity to received international investment. Students from various countries have opportunity to promote countries and attract them for visiting. It creates a chain reaction.

6.3. **Political**

- National Security - Internationalization results in developing cultural and ethical citizens who will operate as global citizens. It enhances their knowledge and gives opportunity to become global leaders.
- International development - Builds political platforms which will connect different countries to collaborate on international level. It is good for academic, economy and social/cultural development.

6.4. **Social/Cultural**

- Global peace and Mutual understanding - Increases tolerance between students from different nations based on interaction with students from diverse countries. Exposure with different customs, cultures, values, etc., will develop students as global citizens. Prepares global citizens to be aware of global problems and issues. It gives knowledge to the students and provides a viewpoint from different perspectives.

7. Expanding International Network

International Black Sea University is involved in several international network cooperation's. It allows institution to be internationally visible and promote internationalization. University is actively involved in Erasmus+ projects with partner universities across EU.

- University plans to develop double degree and joint programs with partner universities within Erasmus program;
- University participates in educational fair and studies platforms pursuing opportunities for partnerships across the globe;
- University faculties are encouraged to organize international events such as seminars, trainings and conferences;
- University initiates international Alumni gatherings to promote international lifelong learning. This develops opportunities for alumni on international stage to be connected and continue learning together;
- IBSU is a member of European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM).

7.1. Future Goals for Partnership with International Organizations

- IBSU plans to become a member of European University Association (EUA);
- As a member of EFQM university plans to get all the benefits which are proposed to the members of the organization.²

7.2. Mechanisms for Developing International Cooperation

New options for international cooperation can be initiated by university staff/structural unit. The initiative is discussed with the Vice-rector for External Affairs. Finally, the indicative is presented to Rector for final decision.

Approved indicative is implemented by the relevant structural units in compliance with university regulations.

² www.efqm.org

*Ignorance of rules of the university shall not be a defence to anyone.
All are therefore required to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations as outlined in the
related IBSU documentation.*

*IBSU is an equal opportunity institution. It does not discriminate against any member of its
community on the basis of gender, race, nationality, ancestry, creed, marital or parental status, or
physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities in its educational programmes and activities.*

Published by:

INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY
David Agmashenebeli Alley 13km, 2, Tbilisi, 0131,
Republic of Georgia
www.ibsu.edu.ge
contact@ibsu.edu.ge

