



საქართველოს ეროვნული უნივერსიტეტი სეუ  
GEORGIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SEU

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INTERNATIONALIZATION POLICY

2020

This document has been developed by the Georgian National University SEU (hereinafter - SEU), to implement an effective and consistent policies of cooperation and and to integrate SEU into the international higher education area which is in line with the mission of the university. Internationalisation at SEU is ongoing and dynamic process, actively involving administrative staff, faculty and students.

## **Internationalization process**

SEU considers internationalization as a holistic activity that is fostered and implemented throughout the university. The internationalization policy of the SEU is based on its mission and strategic development plan and sets out the main paradigms of the education policy of the Common European Higher Education Area (EHEA), known to the public as the Bologna Process. Internationalization and the promotion of mobility are important parts of the Bologna Process and are therefore important components of the SEU Strategic Development Plan.

The Internationalization Policy of the Georgian National University SEU provides the general direction of its international activities. Therefore, it can be understood as a guide for its international development in the areas of teaching, research, institutional administration, and international cooperation, where the main focus lays on consolidating and expanding the existing partnerships; Introduction of internationalization aspects into the curriculum; establishment of dual degrees with partner universities; development/ refinement of English-taught programs and ensuring compliance with international standards. All this is aimed at exposing all students of the SEU to the international experience and to establishing its graduates, as highly skilled, competitive professionals on the global employment market - in line with the mission of SEU. In these terms, SEU seeks to embed also an “internationalization at home” approach.

The internationalization policy of the SEU can be defined as a unity of the following goals:

### **Creating an international profile, raising awareness**

Raising international awareness of the SEU and securing a place in the international educational area is part of the university's long-term strategy. The realization of this goal will contribute not only to the promotion of the Georgian National University SEU but also to the promotion of Georgian and regional education, attracting more students and scholars into the country. Actions taken towards this goal will provide better opportunities to establish relationships with relevant international educational and scientific institutions In this regard, SEU considers the following as core policy elements:

- Establishing and consolidating cooperation with foreign universities and scientific institutions
- Membership of international associations and active participation in the relevant events organized by them
- Participation in international education exhibitions, with the view to penetrate new markets and to promote the university.

### **Internationalization of programs**

SEU seeks to integrate international components into all its study programs. In addition, one of the most important components of the internationalization process is the development and implementation of joint programs with foreign universities. In this regard, SEU considers the following elements as core policy objectives:

- Close cooperation with partner universities, assessing the compatibility of curricula, initiating and actively engaging in the development of joint study programs with the participation of program leaders and affiliated professors.
- Obtaining international accreditation. SEU's policy is to seek international accreditation, in addition to the national accreditation. This process is to be achieved through active involvement of program leaders and affiliated professors.
- Consideration of best international practice in the process of developing and reviewing educational programs
- Integration of foreign language courses as part of the existing educational programs.
- Organization of student and staff exchange programs
- Implementation of distance learning.

### **Internationalization of scientific research**

The globalization process gave a better chance to researchers and scientists to work more actively with foreign partners. Evidence shows that for academic and scientific advances it is crucial to have the opportunity to collaborate and share experiences with foreign colleagues. Consequently, the internationalization of scientific-research activities, cooperation with donor organizations and cooperation with foreign partners are extremely important for SEU. In this regard, SEU considers the following elements as core policy elements:

- Enhancing cooperation with international donor organizations, obtaining scientific-research grants

- Participation in international conferences, supported by adequate funding / co-funding for students and faculty
- Organization of international scientific conferences;
- Promotion and implementation of academic staff support programs (internships, joint research, etc.);
- Implementation of joint international scientific-research projects.

### **International mobility of academic / administrative staff and students:**

The Georgian National University SEU, in cooperation with partner universities, promotes the mobility of students, faculty and administrative staff to the partner institutions on the basis of both, donor funded (Erasmus +) and bilateral agreements between the universities. Georgian National University SEU with international institutional cooperation and strategic partners seeks to attract more international students, scientists and professors, as well as offer foreign experience to its students, faculty and administrative staff. In this regard, SEU considers the following as core policy elements:

- Involvement of invited professors from foreign universities for lectures/seminars/workshops within educational programs
- External mobility of the faculty to partner universities abroad to give lectures/seminars/workshops within educational programs and enhance the capacity in both teaching and research
- Supporting mobility of administrative staff through exchange schemes to foster sharing of experience.
- Student exchange with partner universities on the basis of bilateral agreements;
- Enhancement of foreign language skills for students and staff;
- Organizing public lectures of international guest speakers, with the scope of sharing knowledge and experience with students
- Collaboration with international donor organizations (Erasmus+, etc.), actively informing and advising staff and students about participation opportunities
- Collaboration with partner universities on joint Erasmus+ projects.

### **Attracting foreign students**

A culturally diverse learning environment is important as it prepares students for life in a modern society and a global career. In many cases, the university is the first place where a student is given the chance to study and work with people who are not part of their society and cultural background. In addition, the presence of many students of different cultural backgrounds in a common learning environment and sharing experiences makes lectures more diverse and attractive. SEU is committed to enhance

this diversity and to attract more international students. In this regard, SEU considers the following elements as core policy elements:

- Participation in strategic international educational fairs;
- Collaboration with international recruitment agencies who in turn not only attract students but also promote the university;
- Regular visits to the countries where international students are coming from, to increase an understanding of the context and as a tool for promotion;
- Provision of tailor-made services to foreign students;
- Ensuring the full integration of foreign students into the university life;
- Organization of extra-curricular activities that are in line with the culture of foreign students;
- Adequate information provision through web and social media both in Georgian and in English;
- Establishment of long-term links with foreign graduates through relevant alumni services.

### **Parties involved in the process of internationalization**

The process of internationalization is a multidimensional work at SEU, therefore, the implementation of the internationalization procedures involves the leadership of the SEU, the International Relations Office and the faculties, as well as all the structural units within their competence. Implementation of internationalization policies and procedures is coordinated by the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and the Office of International Relations.

### **Tools for internationalization and monitoring their efficiency**

As a result of the activities laid out in this internationalization policy document, the Georgian National University SEU seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Improving the quality of teaching / learning, scientific-research work;
- Raising the profile in the international educational, scientific-research area;
- Institutional growth and development;
- Strategic partnership with foreign highly ranked universities.

Indicators for monitoring the efficiency of internationalization process are:

- Positive trend in the number of international exchange programs and the number of people involved in exchange programs (students, academic and administrative staff) both incoming and outgoing.
- Positive trend in (bilateral) exchange educational programs;

- Positive trend in the involvement of the academic staff from partner universities in educational programs;
- Positive trend in internationally employed graduates;
- Positive trend in international scientific research;
- Positive trend in international conferences;
- Positive trend in student satisfaction;
- Positive trend in diversification of countries of origin of international students.