HSD STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY AND TEACHING MOBILITY

HSD

Hochschule Düsseldorf
University of Applied Sciences

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PREFACE

HSD upholds the fundamental principles of an open society and rejects discrimination based on any grounds such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or age. In line with these principles, it strives to safeguard academic freedom and pursues scientific knowledge free from ideological bias. Embracing internationality is part of these efforts and fundamental to a modern university. The degree of internationalization is reflected in the number of university members with an international background, the number of international study programs and partner institutions abroad, as well as the international mobility of students, faculty and administrative staff. More profoundly, internationality shapes the culture of the university and promotes appreciation for the vital role of intercultural exchange and mobility in the context of higher education and research. This creates a welcoming environment that promotes mutual acceptance, appreciation and respect between the international guests and their host community. The intercultural experience fosters an understanding of alternative approaches to working, teaching and learning, encouraging both sides to consider new perspectives and critically examine one's own assumptions and biases. This nurtures critical thinking, contributes to personal development and creates a positive social impact.

HSD initiates and supports measures to maintain, strengthen, and expand its international dimension. Internationalization takes place on several levels:
— It provides domestic and international students with the opportunity to gain international experience and acquire intercultural competencies;
— It allows faculty to integrate international experience and topics into their teaching and encourages them to consider international exchange opportunities when designing study programs;
— It enables university staff to place their own work in an international context.

All groups within the HSD community are encouraged to participate in international networks, thereby helping to create an open and welcoming campus. The strategic and operational goals set out below focus on study and teaching, with particular attention to physical and digital mobility. They should be understood as an update and extension rather than a replacement of the 2016 internationalization strategy. Objectives for the internationalization of research as well as broader strategic issues with wider organizational implications are addressed in separate documents, such as the comprehensive university development plan or the upcoming research strategy.

The internationalization goals are anchored in the university development plan, the corresponding departmental development plans, the HSD mission statement, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and the ERASMUS Charter. The HSD mission statement defines the values that guide all actions of the university. Each department formulates its own internationalization goals according to its specific needs and opportunities, which are then consolidated into shared objectives and measures in the university development plan. This plan also serves to present the HSD profile to the public. The UN SDGs provide globally recognized benchmarks that are reflected across the HSD's development plans, its mission statement, and other strategies. Building on these standards, the ERASMUS Charter further establishes the quality framework for individual mobility.

FIELD OF ACTION: INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Strategic goal:
HSD is committed to enabling all university members to pursue international experience and encourages incoming students and staff to benefit from the experience at HSD.

Operational goals:
— Increase the incoming and outgoing mobility of students, faculty, and administrative staff
— Foster Internationalization@home through virtual and blended formats, leveraging digital courses and modules for exchange and collaboration with international partner institutions
— Grow the international partner network and establish long-term strategic ties

FIELD OF ACTION: STUDENT LIFE CYCLE INTERNATIONAL

Strategic goal:
HSD supports international degree-seeking students from first contact through their transition into the labour market. By offering tailored support services, it creates a safe and supportive environment for them.

Operational goals:
— Enhance pre-study preparation through German language courses and workshops on how to organize academic life at HSD
— Expand accompanying services that international students can access while pursuing their studies, including language courses and tailored counseling
— Support international students in their transition from university to career by fostering connections with employers.
— Create an International Alumni Program
— Implement biennial monitoring to evaluate measures and adjust them to evolving needs.

FIELD OF ACTION: INCLUSIVE MOBILITY

Strategic goal:
HSD supports the mobility of students and staff with special needs through targeted measures.

Operational goals:
— Develop an inclusive mobility concept to improve the participation of students with health impairments, special needs and parental responsibilities in international mobility programs.

FIELD OF ACTION: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Strategic goal:
HSD emphasizes sustainable mobility for students and staff.

Operational goals:
— Strengthen and expand structures and incentives for sustainable business travel and design a mobility concept to ensure environmentally and socially responsible international exchange of students and staff.

FIELD OF ACTION: INTERNATIONALIZATION AND DIGITALIZATION

Strategic goal:
HSD advances the digitalization of mobility processes and their integration into the Campus Management System (CMS).

Operational goals:
— Support the "ERASMUS without Paper" (EWP) initiative by implementing the digital processes required under the ERASMUS agreement and ensuring the necessary CMS interfaces are in place
— Promote and recognize virtual and blended teaching and learning formats

All university departments are provided with an overview of potential measures to achieve the goals of this strategy. In the next step, each department will develop its own implementation approach based on its specific potential, constraints and needs. The implementation will be supported by an appropriate monitoring framework.