

# **Internationalization Policy of Caucasus International University**

- **Introduction**

Internationalization is one of the most important strategic goals of Caucasus International University. In order to establish a unified, coherent, and effective policy towards the internationalization process in the university and the measures arising from it, the document Internationalization Policy was developed, to support and ensure the implementation of the mission of the Caucasus International University.

Internationalization Policy of the Caucasus International University is closely related to the national policy of internationalization of education and is fully consistent with the European Area of Higher Education and the Bologna process.

The institutionalization of internationalization and the implementation of its components in the teaching-learning process and research activities will contribute to the achievement of improved learning outcomes, the development of intercultural skills and the creation of international networks, which will prepare both international and local students and researchers to live and work in the modern world.

- **The goal of internationalization**

For the Caucasus International University, internationalization means the introduction of international best practices and the strengthening of international partnerships for quality development within the framework of teaching-learning, research, and the activities of the third mission of the university, as well as in organizational management and professional development of staff.

Internationalization Policy is a framework document that aims to define the main directions of internationalization development and mechanisms for their achievement.

- **Internationalization management and evaluation mechanisms**

The Internationalization Policy of Caucasus International University reflects the unified long-term strategic directions of the university in terms of internationalization.

All structural units of the university (International Relations Department, Scientific Research Department, Quality Assurance Service, Faculties, etc.), within the limits of their competence, shall be involved in the implementation of the Internationalization Policy.

The responsible person for monitoring the implementation of the internationalization policy throughout the University is the head of the International Relations Department of CIU, who is accountable to the Vice-rector in International Relations, who in turn submits an annual report to the Rector on the implementation of the Internationalization Policy

The measures to be implemented in the direction of internationalization, deadlines, and responsible organizational units are described in the Strategic Development Plan of the Caucasus International University, in the Three-year Action Plan, and the action plans of relevant structural units.

Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of the key performance indicators of the internationalization policy are carried out through the supporting document - "Internationalization Mechanisms and Evaluation of their Efficiency". Based on the analysis of the mentioned document, the need for improvement works and development prospects are determined.

- **Directions of Internationalization**

Caucasus International University implements its Internationalization Policy in several directions, for the development of which it defines several mechanisms.

- 1. Development and expansion of the international cooperation network**

University aims to develop international partnerships with foreign universities for the implementation of joint/exchange programs, international research projects, and other international initiatives. Priority is given to cooperation with universities that offer English-language programs.

In order to develop the international cooperation network, the university uses a number of mechanisms, such as organizing international visits, participating in various local and international events.

- 2. Internationalization of educational programs**

University vision in terms of the internationalization of programs is to integrate international content and experience into educational programs to create cross-cultural learning opportunities.

With the purpose of internationalizing educational programs, the policy of the university is to encourage international mobility by providing financial support to outstanding students participating in mobility, by offering English language courses, by selecting partner universities that offer similar programs to facilitate the recognition of credits. In order to increase the international exchange and mobility of students, the number of English-language study courses should be increased in Georgian-language bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. The University aims to design and develop English-language programs (including joint degree programs) that will facilitate the diversity of student and staff exchange programs, as well as attract international students.

In terms of the internationalization of staff, the university is focused on attracting highly qualified foreign professors to teach short-term and long-term courses in English, which will be available to both local, as well as international and exchange students.

In order to promote the professional development of academic and administrative staff and to share international best practices, the University aims to develop international opportunities through exchange programs and by diversification of opportunities to participate in international scientific events.

### **3. Internationalization of research**

For the internationalization of research activities, the University vision is to support staff in attracting international funding.

In order to encourage the scientific staff and young scientists of the university and to integrate them more in the international scientific area, the university policy is to carry out and implement such measures that will contribute to the co-financing of research projects and the organization of international student and scientific conferences.

In order to support the quality of the ongoing scientific research at the university, to ensure the internationalization of the research, and to support the research priorities, the university aims to increase the involvement of foreign researchers in the research activities.

### **4. Promotion of the university abroad and increasing international recognition**

University vision to raise awareness and promote the university abroad is to gain international recognition of the education offered by the university in Eastern countries.

In this direction, the university aims to be represented in international ranking systems and gain membership in international associations and professional networks, for which their assessment criteria should be examined and the university development plans should be adapted to them.

In order to increase the awareness of the university abroad and to attract foreign students, the university aims to activate the work for the development of the International Alumni Network by maintaining constant communication with them and involving them in various university surveys and research; Also, to be presented and participate in international education exhibitions and other events.

## **5. Introduction of international best practices in organizational management processes**

In order to strengthen the organizational management process, the university aims to integrate the best international management practices, studied/discovered in the partner universities/organizations within the framework of international staff mobility, into the university space and to modernize the educational process management system following international experience. And, in order to improve the quality of academic and administrative processes management - continuous career development of staff, among the rest, by actively using international opportunities.

## **6. Internationalization at home**

As a truly international university, the goal of the Caucasus International University is to develop and implement an "internationalization at home" approach, for which the practice of offering support measures to international students for their better integration, encouraging intercultural dialogue, and revealing common opportunities and resources for learning and research should be improved.s

To ensure the "internationalization at home" approach, the university aims to improve the ways of developing the international environment in the university space, which includes and is not limited to, the development of university services in English, the support for teaching the English language for staff to strengthen the international learning environment; organization of international conferences, seminars and international weeks (the so-called "staff weeks") on issues of education quality and internationalization.

In order to **support all the directions of internationalization mentioned above, the university plans to initiate international and local projects and engage in them together with local and international collaborators**, which involves the submission of institutional development and educational grant projects to international organizations, foundations, and programs.