

Internationalization Strategy 2022 - 2024

Higher education and research are increasingly conducted in an international context. A strong international cooperation and student/staff exchange are therefore essential for developing AUI's profile and reputation as an internationally recognized higher education and research institution and the "go-to" partner in international collaboration and research.

Having an internationalization strategy in place is an important prerequisite for implementing AUI's [strategic plan \(2019-2024\)](#).

Overall commitment

AUI will continue to promote and increase international research cooperation, researcher mobility and exchange of students and staff by entering strategic cooperation with internationally and nationally recognized partners in our fields of study. The EU/EEA is a priority area, but a strong emphasis will be also placed on collaboration with developing countries. Other relevant cooperation is also encouraged. The general purpose of internationalization is developing the quality of research and education and increasing international visibility of AUI.

Implementation and responsibility

AUI's Office of International Relations and Research is responsible for coordination, implementation, monitoring and reporting the progress of AUI's internationalization strategy.

AUI is strengthening the information flow and administrative support for internationalization and international education issues through its international office.

AUI's faculties will consider the internationalization strategy when developing their teaching and research strategies and programmes. In cooperation with the international office, the faculties will develop programme-specific measures to support and stimulate international mobility in study programmes.

5 objectives for internationalization

With this strategic document, the AUI's University Council (UC) resolves internationalization as an essential part of AUI's future development by defining clear internationalization objectives.

1. Active participation in international alliances and networks

AUI strives to be an active partner in international alliances and strategic partnerships that strengthen AUI's strategic focus areas and are consistent with AUI's vision and values.

2. International programmes & joint MSc & PhD degrees

AUI will continue to develop and enhance its existing international programmes and will aim to establish more joint or double degree graduate programmes.

AUI started its first international joint MSc degree program in 2019 (enchil.net) and is currently gaining valuable experience in managing and executing international study programs. AUI plans to establish further international study programs.

3. Internationalization at home

Internationalization at home is defined as the purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments. Furthermore, Internationalization at home will develop broader perspectives for teachers and staff:

- **International and intercultural perspectives in education**
Considering international educational aspects during curriculum development
- **Virtual mobility through online interaction with partner universities**
Increasing the offer of online courses for AUI students in cooperation with partner universities.
- **Professional development for teaching and administrative staff**
AUI is creating an international work environment, attracting foreign scholars to come to work in Iceland and encouraging local staff to engage for teaching & training abroad mobility.
- **Multilingualism**
AUI acknowledges English as an academic 'Lingua franca' for internationalization purposes. AUI is thriving to become a multilingual institution that uses both Icelandic and English for teaching and research purposes.
- **Increase the number of international staff at AUI**

4. Student and staff mobility

International student and staff mobility is an immanent cornerstone of internationalization in higher education. AUI was awarded an Erasmus+ Charter for the program period 2021 -2027. AUI will prioritize mobility through the Erasmus framework. AUI intends to increase both outgoing and incoming mobility. Blended and virtual mobilities: From 2021, Erasmus+ is supporting universities in program countries to offer blended intensive programs. AUI will encourage academic scholars to offer blended and virtual mobility courses and students to participate in respective courses.

5. Participation in European research and innovation collaboration

Participation in the EU framework programs is of high importance to Icelandic international research collaboration. Through participation in European research collaboration, AUI can strengthen the quality and relevance of research, innovation and education. Moreover, collaboration with European partners will contribute to strengthening both researcher networks and career development for researchers and students.

Appendix

5 key actions & measures for internationalization

1. Active participation in international alliances and networks

AUI is a proud and active member of several international university networks:

- [the Nordic Forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University Network \(NOVA\)](#)
- [the Green European University \(UNIGREEN\)](#)
- [The University of the Arctic \(UArctic\)](#)
- [the ASSOCIATION FOR EUROPEAN LIFE SCIENCE UNIVERSITIES \(ICA\)](#)

Furthermore, AUI supports its academic staff to actively participate in research network- and consortium building activities, such as [COST Actions](#) etc.

AUI is participating and leading several international research networks, e.g.

- [Herbivory Network](#)
- [Future Arctic Research Network](#)
- [Icelandic Aerosol and Dust Association \(IceDust\)](#)
- [Centre of Advanced Research on Environmental Services from Nordic Forest Ecosystems \(CAR-ES\)](#)
- [UArctic TN on Bioregional Planning for Resilient Rural Communities](#)
- [UArctic TN on Local-Scale Planning, Climate Change and Resilience](#)

2. Promote international programmes, joint MSc and PhD degrees (and double degrees), micro-credentials

AUI started its first international joint MSc degree program in 2019 ([enchil.net](#)) and is currently gaining valuable experience in managing and executing international study programs.

- At least one additional international MSc programme will be launched at AUI by 2024
- AUI will follow future EU guidelines for establishing micro-credentials to award qualified learning outcomes acquired through a short course or modules. Micro-credentials may be completed on-site, online or in a blended format.

AUI has one international joint Nordic Master programme, together with Lund University (LU) in Sweden and University of Helsinki (UH) in Finland: [Nordic Master in Environmental Changes at Higher Latitudes \(EnCHIL\)](#). The EnCHIL programme was established in 2019 and is led by AUI. Its establishment was an important stepping-stone towards increased internationalization of AUI. Other associated partners who take part in this program with AUI/LU/UH are Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Aarhus University in Denmark, University of Oulu in Finland and Estonian University of Applied Life Sciences.

AUI is also an associated partner in the Nordic collaboration on [The Master's Degree Programme in Atmosphere-Biosphere Studies \(ABS\)](#), which e.g., supports AUI student participation in field-courses in Finland and summer-courses in Greenland.

Further, AUI has made number of agreements for joint PhD degrees with different Nordic and European universities, including University of Antwerp, Belgium, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden, and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Norway.

AUI is aiming to expand the ongoing network cooperation and enable staff and students to make best possible use of network activities.

3. Increase internationalization at home

International and intercultural perspectives in education

Considering international educational aspects during curriculum development.
Offering courses in multicultural competencies.

Virtual mobility through online working with partner universities

Increasing the offer of online course for LbhÍ students in cooperation with partner universities.

Professional development for teaching staff and for administrative staff

Enhancing multicultural and multilingual skills for staff, e.g., by offering English courses for local staff members and Icelandic courses for international staff members; multicultural competence courses; establish an annual International week/International day at AUI

Multilingualism

Undergraduate courses at AUI are offered mainly in Icelandic, but upper level courses may have English as a supplementary language. Graduate level courses are offered in Icelandic or English depending on the program and demand.

AUI as a comparatively small Higher Education Institution sees certain benefits in widening the use of English in teaching and research, to facilitate student exchange, improve graduate employability, recruit international students and enhance institutional profiles. All relevant information for collaboration, research and study will be displayed in English on AUI's website. Regarding staff development, the use of English can lead to enrichment of knowledge and further development of professional skills. Addition benefits include enhancing the availability of teaching and research materials, fostering staff mobility, communicating scientific knowledge more widely and responding to calls for funding from the EU.

However, AUI takes at the same time full responsibility to maintain and develop the Icelandic language in AUI's scientific fields.

Measures:

- AUI is offering bilingual exams (Icelandic/English) at all study levels (if students apply for in time)
- Increased selection of English-taught courses at all study levels
- Offering Icelandic courses for international staff
- Supporting staff development regarding English courses for staff & scholars
- Following a bilingual approach for relevant inner staff communication (administrative emails, official staff meetings)

Increase the number of international staff working at AUI

AUI is aiming to increase the number of international staff. Vacancies for academic positions will be advertised both on national and international portals.

4. Increase student & staff mobility

AUI supports physical, blended and virtual mobilities.

From 2021, Erasmus+ is supporting universities in program countries to offer blended intensive programs. AUI will encourage academic scholars to offer blended and virtual mobility courses and students to participate in respective courses.

Outgoing:

- At least 20 per cent of students who graduate from AUI in 2024 will have participated in an international exchange.
- More teaching mobility - outgoing teachers: Increased number of AUI's teachers who participate in an teaching mobility in a partner university
- More administrative staff mobility for training

Incoming:

- Increased number of international students
- Increased number of incoming exchange students, including from AUI partner universities
- Increased number of teacher mobility – encourage incoming teachers from partner universities.
- Increased number of professionals as incoming teachers. Making use of the *Incoming from Enterprise* option through Erasmus+ for incoming teaching mobilities.

5. Increase the participation in European research and innovation collaboration

- AUI will more intensively apply for Horizon Europe programs, Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA), EU-LIFE program, NPA/Interreg, Nordic Council funding etc.
- AUI will offer regular information events (internal workshops, presentations from external partners, info webinars, proposal writing workshops) to secure access for scholars and students to relevant information regarding funding opportunities, proposal writing etc.

International Relations Lbhí



Student & Staff mobility



 Erasmus+

More than 40 partner universities

 UNiGreen
The green European University

 Nordplus

 FULBRIGHT

 NOVA
UNIVERSITY NETWORK

 COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

 UNIVERSITY
OF THE ARCTIC

International research cooperation in

Agricultural Science
Forestry Science
Planning Sciences
Environmental Sciences



 HERBIVORY NETWORK
STUDYING HERBIVORY IN ARCTIC AND ALPINE ECOSYSTEMS

 Dust

 S-ituation

 TUNDRA
SALAD

 SUSTAINABLE
RESILIENT
COASTS

 Nordic Council
of Ministers

 NordGen
Nordic Genetic Resource Centre

 Future
Arctic

 trePROX

 Northern
Periphery
Programme
2007-2013

 Innovatively investing
in Europe's Northern
Periphery for a sustainable
and prosperous future

 European Union
European Regional Development Fund