Internationalization: An Asset for the Future

**Internationalization Programme**
Fostering and developing international relations has always been important, and nowadays plays a key role in Leibniz Universität Hannover’s institutional strategy. As a process, internationalization is defined by a strategy and an implementation programme. Our internationalization strategy is submitted to the Senate for comment, decided upon by the Presidential Executive Committee and implemented by the International Office and the relevant university institutions.

**Internationalization as a Joint Challenge**
Consolidating existing international relations and creating new ones is rooted in the principle that Leibniz Universität Hannover sees internationalization as an investment in and an asset for the future. Bearing global change in mind, we define internationalization as a joint challenge to be met on equal terms with our partners. According to scientific research, key areas are studying abroad, international students studying here, exchange programmes and service. Along with our traditional partners in the EU and the USA, our partners in emerging nations and developing countries have given us the opportunity to assume a forward-looking and constructive position in the north-south dialogue. In accordance with the 2005-2008 target agreement between Leibniz Universität Hannover and the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture, the following targets and measures for internationalization have been defined.

**Targets**
I. Raising our Profile
II. Teaching and Research Strategy
III. Quality Assurance

**Measures**

I. **Raising our Profile**
I.1 Internal Structures
I.2 Cooperation within Networks (TU9, CESAEER)
I.3 Setting Priorities: Partner countries, partner universities, extending the Hannover Model

II. **Teaching and Research Strategy**
II.1 Promoting Research
II.2 Teaching
II.2.1 Master’s and Doctorate Level
II.2.2 Recruiting Students from S.E. Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and CIS
II.3 Studying Abroad
II.4 International Students
III. Quality Assurance

III.1 Service Agency
III.2 Course-Related Service for International Students
III.3 Service for Visiting Scholars and their Hosts
III.4 International Alumni Network
III.5 Evaluation

I. Raising our Profile

I.1 Internal Structure
The Presidential Executive Committee, represented by the Director of International Affairs, is responsible for internationalization. Implementation falls within the remit of the International Office.

I.2 Networks (TU9, CESAER)
Represented by the Director of International Affairs, Leibniz Universität Hannover is a leading participant in the international activities of the above-mentioned networks. As a member of these networks, Leibniz Universität Hannover aims to raise its international profile and benefit from opportunities for international marketing. Education in engineering and the natural sciences is promoted in these networks.

I.3 Setting Priorities: Partner Countries and Partner Universities
By concentrating on and raising the profile of existing international relations and traditional research relations we aim to broaden the base of existing contacts. Furthermore, we will concentrate on specific regions which either already maintain close ties with us (Central and Eastern Europe), or can be seen as future markets (S.E. Asia).

The Hannover Model is an instrument developed by Leibniz Universität Hannover to motivate qualified and well-prepared international students to study at our university (e.g. through coordinators at the home universities, preparatory studies at home, a student selection process, service and support during their studies). We are consolidating the Hannover Model in Vietnam, China and Thailand, and are expanding it to include Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation and South Korea. The model is also being extended to further faculties at Leibniz Universität Hannover.

Regional priorities are defined as follows:
EU, Russian Federation, Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Thailand), China
More intensive international relations are being established with South Korea and India.
Our long-standing and active contacts to universities in South America, and especially Chile and Brazil, are to be reorganised.
Australia is of particular interest for studying abroad as further opportunities have opened up here.
II. Teaching and Research Strategy / Attractiveness of Teaching and Research

The faculties are to intensify their efforts to acquire third-party funding for international cooperations and two-way student exchanges. Apart from forging new contacts in the above-mentioned priority countries, participating in networks, developing dual degrees, dual doctorates, joint degrees and exchanges for doctoral students, postdocs and academics are seen as priority areas.

II.1 Promoting Research
To a great extent, promoting research lies in the hands of the faculties. The Presidential Committee promotes the internationalization of research in all faculties, especially by recruiting international academics and postdocs.

The International Office assists the faculties by providing a support and advice service for international visiting scholars and by distributing information on promoting academic exchanges.

II.2 Teaching
There are currently only a few degree courses in English. The engineering faculties will continue to teach in German. Most faculties do however accept master's and doctoral theses in English. During the doctoral phase, research cooperations with the faculties can be conducted in English. Nevertheless, knowledge of German is indispensable within existing structures.

The setting up of integrated and joint degree programmes, as well as dual degrees, provides an excellent chance to open up more foreign study opportunities within the framework of bachelor's and master's programmes.

II.2.1 Master's and Doctorate Level
Our main emphasis is on joint programmes for master's students. An extension to the doctoral programmes is currently being tested. We would like as many of the nine faculties as possible to be involved.

We are working towards further expansion of ECTS, diploma supplement, joint degrees, dual degrees and joint doctorates.

II.2.2 Recruiting Students from S.E. Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and CIS
Leibniz Universität Hannover is committed to attracting excellent international students. Our guiding principle is quality, not quantity. We work according to the following premises:

- Start with partners who are sufficiently motivated
- Selection of partner universities based on stable research cooperations
- Manageable time and effort
- Flexibility in developing common study programmes

We recruit students from the above-mentioned regions in accordance with the Hannover Model. This model is to be developed further.
II.3 Studying Abroad

Leibniz Universität Hannover wishes to equip its students for international competition. For this reason, it is vital to promote exchanges and study abroad programmes. The proportion of students integrating a stay abroad into their studies should increase. Our goal is for at least 10% of all students to have spent some time abroad by the end of their studies. By providing relevant service and a wider choice of attractive offers we wish to encourage more students to spend time abroad in the future.

With the Socrates/Erasmus programmes, the many university and faculty cooperation agreements, and, since 2006, the ISIP programme we already have a relatively good range of exchange programmes. The following developments need monitoring:

- Encouraging/requiring mobility
- Networks with partner universities in order to develop exchange programmes in hitherto unrepresented or underrepresented regions (e.g. S.E. Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, CIS)
- Developing alternatives to “traditional” programmes in English-speaking countries (UK, USA, Australia)
- More consideration of quality aspects, i.e. developing forward-looking cooperation agreements with active participation on both sides
- Greater involvement of the faculties and expansion of faculty / course-specific exchange programmes
- A balance between incoming and outgoing students and scientists within the programmes
- Incentives to spend time abroad through: visiting lecturer programmes (lecturers from partner universities teach at Leibniz Universität Hannover; Leibniz Universität Hannover students are able to establish personal contacts to international lecturers), subject, language and cultural preparation for stays abroad, specialised language teaching.

II.4 International Students

So that our international students are successful in their studies, special support and advice services are available throughout the three phases: preparation for studying in Germany, during studies, and after completion of studies (alumni concept). This has to a great extent already been put in place and is being implemented by the International Office.

III. Quality Assurance

III.1 Service Agency

A service agency is currently being set up by the International Office for students preparing for and embarking on their studies. The continued existence of this agency will follow upon positive evaluation by Leibniz Universität Hannover. This evaluation will take place after two years. The service agency is responsible for supplying information and support in the following areas: language, preparation for studies, accommodation, and integration. The service will also cater to visiting scholars.
III.2 Course-related Service for International Students
This service is being expanded and improved.

III.3 Service for Visiting scholars and their Hosts
The International Office is setting up a support and advice service for international visiting scholars and their hosts.

III.4 International Alumni Network
The International Office is working on a concept to develop support and advice for international alumni, to be integrated into an overall university alumni strategy.

III.5 Evaluation
Starting immediately, the International Office plans to continually evaluate all programmes and to monitor the success of implemented strategies on a yearly basis. This will enable us to carry out precise planning of our activities.

Time Scale and Priorities
The international strategy will be implemented over the next five years with the following priorities:

- promoting study abroad programmes
- expanding the Hannover Model according to our priority countries
- improving service
- marketing

During this period, the following measures are to be newly developed:

- service agency, service for visiting scholars
- cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe as a project
- evaluation in particular of study abroad programmes
- international alumni network.