

## **ICELAND UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS**

### INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2020-2025

The institutional strategy of Iceland University of the Arts (IUA) 2019-2023 places emphasis on providing students with tools to enhance their abilities to take on projects and challenges in an international and multi-cultural environment.

International collaboration is an important way to knowledge creation, building trust and increased understanding of the international community. Through international collaboration in a multicultural learning community, the IUA strives to train students to make unprejudiced and fact-based decisions. International collaboration between universities is also a key factor in enhancing the quality of teaching, learning and research.

#### **Learning with an International Dimension**

All students should have the opportunity to participate in international activities, either through mobility abroad or through an international dimension in their studies at home. Through strategic collaboration with universities abroad, the IUA provides students with opportunities for short-term and long-term mobility, digital learning and collaboration across borders, as well as participation in international projects at home. This way the IUA strives for an inclusive approach to internationalisation, providing opportunities for all students to be part of international collaboration activities.

#### **Learning Environment and Support**

The IUA wishes to offer students a welcoming study environment and provide excellent support to a diverse group of students. Students and staff participate in creating a learning community where diversity is celebrated, student voices are heard, and everyone receives appropriate support. The IUA considers a learner-centred approach and culturally responsive teaching methods to be the key to creating a multicultural learning community that is based on equality and inclusion. The IUA places emphasis on enhancing intercultural competences of students and staff through training, and that students are active participants in orientation of newcomers. Students receive language support, and communication within the institution should take a diverse student group into consideration.

#### **Strategic Collaboration**

Strategic collaboration between IUA and universities abroad contributes to educational and research development in an international dialogue. Through collaborative projects and staff exchanges the IUA offers opportunities for professional development in an international setting. IUA places emphasis on close collaboration across a broad spectrum of disciplines with specific universities. This entails participation in educational development projects, international research projects, teacher exchanges, diverse student exchange options, dialogue about quality enhancement and sharing experiences on administrative procedures.

## Action Plan

IUA's Action Plan on international collaboration is built on IUA's institutional strategy for 2020-2025. The plan consists of objectives and actions and is divided in three chapters:

- Learning with an international dimension
- Learning environment and support
- Strategic collaboration

The estimated completion of the actions below is at the end of 2025.

### Learning with an international dimension

Main objectives:

- That students have equal opportunities and flexibility in their studies to participate in international collaboration.
- That students get opportunities to take on projects and challenges in an international and multi-cultural environment at home.

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Participants
1: That students have equal opportunities and flexibility in their studies to participate in international collaboration.	1.1 That all programmes identify a window/flexibility for studies abroad (short and/or long term).	Deans of Departments	Programme Directors, International Office, Project Manager Teaching
	1.2 That mobility windows are re-evaluated as part of <i>On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes</i> .	Quality Manager	Programme Directors, International Office, Project Manager Teaching
	1.3 That all programmes seek ways to encourage students to study abroad, in particular with strategic partners.	Deans of Departments	Programme Directors, International Office
2: That students get opportunities to take on projects and challenges in an international and multi-cultural environment at home.	2.1 That all departments develop a course based on digital collaboration and blended mobility.	Deans of Departments	Deans, Programme Directors, International Office, Project Manager Teaching
	2.2 That all programmes create a short-term mobility window for incoming students from partner universities.	Deans of Departments	Programme Directors, International Office
	2.3 That all students are able to share experiences based on their own background.	Deans of Departments	Programme Directors, Academic staff, Project Manager Teaching

	2.4 That teachers provide teaching material that reflect different perspectives and a diverse world view. This will be done as part of <i>On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes.</i>	Quality Manager	Deans of Departments, Programme Directors, Academic staff, Project Manager Teaching
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## Learning environment and support

Main objectives:

- To offer a learning community where diversity is celebrated
- To enhance participation of students in support and orientation for new international students.
- To enhance support for students aiming at mobility (studying or training) abroad.

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Participants
3: To offer a learning community where diversity is celebrated	3.1 To develop a course on intercultural competences for all students.	Head of International Office	International Office, Student Counsellor, Project Manager Teaching
	3.2 To offer information and training for all staff on intercultural competences.	Human Resource Manager	International Office, Student Counsellor, Project Manager Teaching
	3.3 To offer information and training for teachers on multicultural education and culturally responsive teaching.	Project Manager Quality and Teaching	International Office
	3.4 To open a writing centre to support international students.	Director of Library	Project Manager Teaching
	3.5 To make clear work procedures about use of language in teaching.	Project Manager Quality and Teaching	Deans, Deans of Departments, Programme Directors, Director of Academic Affairs
	3.6 To make clear work procedures about use of language for communication of information.	Quality Manager	Academic Office
	3.7 To improve access to course catalogue for exchange applicants.	Deans	Deans of Departments Project Manager University Office, Programme Directors
	3.8 To guarantee participation of international students in the student unions.	Student Council	Director of Academic Affairs,

			PM of PR & Communications
	3.9 To systematically gather information on the experiences of international students of their studies.	Project Manager Quality and Teaching	International Office
4: To enhance participation of students in support and orientation for new international students.	4.1 To develop a new Mentor system.	Head of International Office	International Office, Student Counsellor
	4.2 To reorganise the participation of students in orientation of international and exchange students.	Head of International Office	International Office, Student Counsellor
5: To enhance support for students aiming at mobility (studying or training) abroad	5.1 To develop a workshop for preparing for studying/training abroad.	Head of International Office	International Office, Student Counsellor
	5.2 To create a self-evaluation for students that study or train abroad.	Head of International Office	International Office, Project Manager Teaching, Student Counsellor

## Strategic collaboration

Main objectives:

- To build up close collaboration on educational and research development with specific partner universities, across a broad spectrum of disciplines.
- To systematically use strategic collaboration with partners for the purpose of staff development.

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Participants
6: To build up close collaboration on educational and research development across a broad spectrum of disciplines with specific partner universities.	6.1 To specify certain universities as strategic partners.	Head of International Office	Rector, Deans, Deans of Departments, Programme Directors, International Office
	6.2 That IUA's leadership visits strategic partner universities to build up and support collaboration.	Rector	Deans, Managing Director, International Office
	6.3 To create blended mobility and digital collaboration opportunities with strategic partner universities.	Deans of departments	Programme Directors, International Office
	6.4 That all departments use international collaboration funding for educational and research development.	Deans	Deans of Departments, Programme Directors,

			Project Manager of Teaching, International Office
	6.5 That all departments create a clear strategy on inviting guest lecturers from strategic partner universities.	Deans of Departments	Deans, Programme Directors
7: To systematically use strategic collaboration with partners for the purpose of staff development.	7.1 That the IUA leadership creates a plan on how to use Erasmus staff exchange funding for the purpose of staff development.	Rector	Deans, Deans of Departments, Managing Director, University Office Director, Human Resource Manager, Project Manager Teaching, International Office
	7.2 That staff members of the University Office and other support staff visits strategic partner universities to exchange knowledge and have a dialogue about quality enhancement, research, learning and teaching, management and improved administrative practices.	University Office Director, Managing Director,	Directors of Support Services
	7.3 That academic staff visits strategic partners to learn about their study environment, and to exchange knowledge about research, learning and teaching.	Deans of Departments	Programme Directors
	7.4 That the IUA defines ways to formally recognise staff's participation in staff exchange and international collaboration.	Human Resource Manager	Rector, Managing Director, Quality Manager, Project Manager Teaching, International Office