



European Policy Statement 2021-2027

The University of Potsdam is fully committed to the principles of non-discrimination, transparency, and inclusion. It promotes internationalization as an integral part of its overall strategy in order to enhance its visibility in the European and global context and increase its attractiveness for students and researchers. The overall goal of the continuing internationalization of the University of Potsdam is to boost quality, competitiveness, and diversity in our studies, teaching, and research and to promote open-mindedness, intercultural exchange, and a welcoming culture at the university. Internationalization is understood to be a cross-sectional responsibility that is shared by the university management, the faculties, and the central and scientific institutions.

The University of Potsdam's Internationalization Strategy is based on three overarching strategic fields of action and five priority topics.

Strategic Fields of Action:

1) Internationalization through Digitalization: The advancement of digitalization in research, teaching, and administration is a crucial strategic goal of the University of Potsdam. It is being pursued in four different areas: the expansion of IT infrastructures, the development of a digital administration, the conception of digital studies, and the establishment of e-science infrastructures. In particular, the projects "European Digital UniverCity Card Student (EDUcardS)" and "Online Pedagogical Resources for European Universities (OpenU)" facilitate the harmonization of structures for international student mobility. In digital teaching, the University of Potsdam focuses on the "Online International Learning" (OIL.UP) program, which is to be expanded, especially within the framework of the European university alliance "European Digital UniverCity (EDUC)". Furthermore, digital management and networking tools (e.g. the internationalization app "ConnActUP") are to be utilized to advance the creation of networks between scholars.

2) Internationalization through Global Topics: By putting strategic emphasis on the topic, awareness for sustainability issues, as defined in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), is to be raised among all status groups of the university. That is why the University of Potsdam will continue to develop its strategy in research, teaching, and transfer with regard to sustainability topics. In particular, the university will create networks and promote transdisciplinary research and teaching with international partners and include stakeholders from civil society.

3) Internationalization of Teacher Education: By internationalizing teacher training programs, we want to prepare aspiring teachers to successfully support culturally diverse learning groups in pedagogical terms. In this context, cooperation with German schools abroad for students' teaching internships as well as the expansion of partnerships with international teacher training institutions play a decisive role. International summer schools and Online International Learning formats will be used to promote student and teaching staff mobility and extend intercultural learning opportunities. The DAAD model project "UP Network for Sustainable Teacher Education" at the Center for Teacher Training (ZeLB) focuses on transdisciplinary approaches that deal with sustainable education with an international orientation, such as the concept of "global citizenship", which prepares prospective teachers for cross-disciplinary school education in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Priority Topics:

1) Partnerships and Networks: The European university alliance “European Digital UniverCity” (EDUC) with five other European universities (Masaryk University, University of Pécs, University of Cagliari, Université Rennes 1 and Université Paris Nanterre) is one of the mainstays for the partnerships and network cooperation projects of the University of Potsdam. Beyond that, strategic partnerships with Macquarie University and Tel Aviv University and partnerships with selected priority regions and countries also do their part in raising the international profile of the UP.

2) Internationalization of Teaching and Studies: The University of Potsdam prepares its students for future societal issues and the challenges of a globalized labor market by advancing the internationalization and digitalization of the courses it offers. In addition to the well-established study trips and internships abroad, the University of Potsdam also offers summer schools with an international focus and promotes blended learning formats with international partners. More than 20 English-language degree programs with their large proportion of international students contribute to “Internationalization at Home”. Furthermore, the university promotes the multilingualism and intercultural competence of its students, e.g. with the help of a Buddy Program to assist international students or a certificate for “Intercultural Competence in Studies and Professional Life”.

3) Welcome Culture and Support for International Students and Researchers: With its international orientation, the University of Potsdam wants to provide a stimulating work environment for researchers. For that reason, it will continue to enhance the welcoming culture for scholars, students, and employees in order to improve the attractiveness of Potsdam as a university and research location. The internationalization of its administration will continue, including the expansion of the UP’s English-language web presence and the introduction of a bilingual signage system in German and English.

4) Research, Knowledge and Technology Transfer: The University of Potsdam offers excellent conditions for international top-level research thanks to its ties to numerous extramural research institutions, joint professorial appointments, and cooperation projects. We intend to expand our regional connections to companies as well as our international connections to partner universities around the world. From a strategic point of view, the University of Potsdam has positioned itself in the European research area, in particular by way of its participation in the EU’s Framework Program for Research. In this respect, the university aims to increase the number of EU third-party funding applications, while also participating in international calls for proposals outside the EU. With regard to support for early career researchers, the aim is to continuously advance the structures for the international promotion of early career researchers through the Potsdam Graduate School (PoGS) and to establish a network of German and international early career researchers.

5) International Visibility and Networking: The University of Potsdam aims to be a well-connected and attractive place to study that is visible on an international scale. To this end, it intends to enhance its international student marketing activities even further and to make use of modern digital forms of communication. In addition, the university intends to expand the offers of the International Summer Campus and use scientific formats on the topic of sustainability as a marketing tool for the university. Along with international networking activities carried out by the University of Potsdam’s liaison offices in Argentina and Brazil, to which it intends to add a representation in Russia in the future, a network of researchers and alumni is also being established to cultivate international contacts.

In addition to its internationalization strategy, the University of Potsdam also aims to be an inclusive and discrimination-free university. In this context, a university-wide “Inclusion Concept for Improving Study and Working Conditions for People with Disabilities and/or Chronic Illnesses” has now been adopted and an anti-discrimination guideline has been drawn up. The University of Potsdam aims to improve its counseling and

information offers for this target group in order to increase participation of students and staff in mobility programs (especially Erasmus+).