

University of Georgia

Short-Term Strategic Plan For Internationalization

2024-2027

Our task is the production of knowledge and the education of a person, by which we mean instilling liberal-humane values in a person, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed with conscientious work.

We do all this by creating competence centers and such platforms, where the creation and implementation of educational programs tailored to market requirements is ensured ; By creating an environment where a person is given the maximum arena for demonstrating, developing and realizing creative, innovative and entrepreneurial abilities.

With our activities, which we carry out with a constantly innovative approach, and with our own example of striving for institutional perfection, we contribute to the democratic development of society, for the benefit of the Georgian nation and humanity.

Mission of the University of Georgia

Introduction

The short-term strategic plan for internationalization (2023-2027) of the University of Georgia was created with complete understanding and on the basis of the mission and vision, as well as the university's structural units' current material-technical, human and financial resources and conditions. Therefore, meticulous implementation of the plan will be another factor in ensuring that the university fulfills its purpose.

It should be noted that the strategic location of Georgia, its geographical proximity to European as well as Asian worlds, the declared course of the country towards European integration and democratization, as well as the association agreement signed with the European Union and the recent advancement to candidate status, represent important facilitating factors for the promotion of internationalization and also for determining in which form is the internationalization possible and favorable for achieving the University of Georgia's goals which are established in the Strategic Plan 2023-2030.

Along with the strategic goals and their respective recommendations, the implementation plan will be created for this document in the beginning of 2024, which should include clear evaluation metrics and direct indicators set in time, which will simplify the assessment of the degree of fulfillment of the set goals, as well as help us to assess the degree of internationalization in the university in general.

The strategic plan includes four main topics and numerous opportunities related to these topics:

Topics	Opportunities
Humanitarian resource and strategic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education of Georgian and world citizens• Attract and retain talent worldwide
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing the necessary and favorable price for success<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structuring
Implementation of the mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing global influence
A strategic initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internationalization of the curriculum
Conclusion	

Naturally, successful internationalization of the university will not be possible without specific administrative units and responsible persons whose involvement is clearly defined in the document.

Humanitarian Resource:

1. Education of Georgian and world citizens

The University of Georgia, as an educational institution that offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in two languages, strives to provide its students of all levels with the education necessary to succeed in the modern world, equip them with the skills necessary for internationalization, and facilitate their career advancement.

This kind of task is certainly quite difficult to accomplish, which also is, on one hand made easier, and on the other hand, complicated by the enrollment of an increasing number of international students in the university. Because, of course, the local and international students achieve such a goal through different circumstances and by taking different steps, which complicates the whole task, but makes the entire process more interesting and productive.

Also, another adversity is the large number of people in Georgia who have fewer opportunities, such as, the people suffering from the widespread economic hardship and poverty in the country, a large number of Internally Displaced Persons as a result of various conflicts, problems related to the integration of people with disabilities, lack of access to internet and other modern technologies for the students from the rural areas of Georgia, ethnic minorities, etc. These factors prevent people from developing the skills needed for the job market of today's global world, and the university spares no effort to overcome these obstacles, which we also consider an an integral part of internationalization.

Recommendations :

- The increase in number of the English-language programs of the University of Georgia and the number of international students on these programs, which implies a constant increase in income.
- Increasing funding and promotion of scientific research of the university's academic staff, which will lead to the advancement of the university in international authoritative rankings, and on the other hand, will promote international scientific collaborations between us and the scientific staff of foreign universities. Both of these factors will contribute to internationalization by creating more attractive positions for international students and by increasing the number of international collaborations.

- Curricular and Extracurricular steps that encourage the engagement of local and International students in better understanding the new cultures , languages , regions and other International aspects.
- Researching all possible international funding sources to further involve students, academic and non-academic staff in international programmes.
- Work on the organization of new and even more diverse exchange study and work-study programs.
- Increasing the number of students participating in study exchange programs through indirect and direct funding of more such programs, as declining interest in this direction is a growing problem and the lack of economic opportunities is the main reason for this.
- A constant increase in the number of educational institutions and organizations that offer active exchange study and work-study programs.
- Organization of intercultural and international workshops, conferences, and trainings.
- Continuous research of new and existing markets for recruiting, preparation of annual reports to create market expectations.
- Increasing the involvement of international students both in internal university activities and in international exchange programs, and in both international and domestic conferences and workshops.
- Monitoring of international scientific journals and activities to attract new scientific work force and talents, as well as encouragement of outstanding students to increase scientific input.
- Initiating and deepening cooperation with new markets (especially in the direction of Latin America, Far Asia and Western Europe) in order to attract students.
- Finding sources of funding for talented applicants, establishing new scholarships especially in new market regions such as Latin America, Far Asia and Europe.
- Increasing the representation of the university at various international forums; raising awareness, especially in the three new regions, that are strategically important for future development.
- Creation of a new, bigger scale dormitory.

Responsible Administrative Units :

Rector's Office , School Directors , Vice-Rector for Marketing, Public Relations and International Relations , International Relations and International Student Services Office, Employment and Career Development Support Center, Graduates and Student Affairs Center

2. Attract and retain talent worldwide

For years, the University of Georgia has been offering various English-language programs to international students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and at the same time, the University of Georgia is motivated to attract prominent researchers and teachers in the international market.

The market of international students in Georgia is growing, it already surpasses many areas of economic activity traditional for Georgia. Of course, the University of Georgia plans to use all the favorable features that our country has to offer in terms of attracting students in order to create an international educational hub, which is why the recruitment of new students will be a necessary condition for attracting the talent worldwide.

In addition, the increase in the number of English programs facilitates the recruitment of academic staff with different academic abilities and backgrounds with international experience, thanks to which the university will have the ability to increase both the research component and the scale of international collaboration even more quickly.

It is also worth noting that the University of Georgia has a practice of transform its current and former students into its representatives in different parts of the world, usually in their homelands, and that is why this aspect is a direct contributing factor to the internationalization of the university.

Recommendations :

- Monitoring scientific performance on a global scale to attract promising and crucial people in this direction.
- Preparing and refining clear job offers for foreign scientists.
- An increase in the number of international students, which provides the necessary finances and international involvement for these activities.
- Constant increase in the number of English-language programs, of course, based on market analysis.

Responsible administrative Units :

Rector's Office, School Directors, Vice-Rector for Marketing, Public Relations and International Relations, International Relations and International Student Services Office, Human Capital Management Service, Employment and Career Development Support Center, Graduates and Student Affairs Center

Environment

3. Ensuring the necessary price for success.

As the prestige of Georgia as an attractive country for international students grows, so does the international competition. Competition for Georgian-language programs is increasing within the country as well. Therefore, of course , it is necessary for successful internationalization to ensure attractive pricing, without which discussion of any kind of recruiting success can be considered redundant.

Recommendations :

- Maintaining competitive prices.
- Improvement of the scholarships for international students.
- Finding new sources of international funding by participating in both educational and mixed projects.
- Recruiting market analysis to establish both optimal competitive pricing and optimal market commissions for agencies.

Responsible administrative Units :

Rector's Office, School Directors, Financial Department, Vice-Rector in the field of Finance, International Relations and International Student Services Office.

4. Structuring

As for any other strategy, the internationalization plan also needs successful implementation, the essential factor of which is effective cooperation between departments, which should be done by facilitating advantageous structuring.

Recommendations :

- Creation of the implementation plan for the short-term internationalization plan.
- Fostering interdepartmental cooperation, deepening connections between faculties and administrative units.

Responsible administrative Units :

Rector's Office, School Directors, Vice Rector, International Relations and International Student Services Office, Human Capital Management Service

Implementation of the mission

5. Increasing global influence

As mentioned in the Strategic Plan 2023-2030, the University of Georgia wants to establish an international educational hub, which will be the most important educational center not only in the region, but also outside of it. For this, it is necessary to not only raise awareness, but also to increase international influence directly by participating in specific projects.

Recommendations :

- Organizing international project writing trainings for the scientific team of different faculties, or giving them the opportunity to participate in it.
- Exploring the possibilities of establishing a campus in countries where the university is well-known, and developing a plan for this matter.
- Encouraging participation in various international business projects and participation in tenders requiring scientific input.
- Drawing up a protocol of cooperation with various business organizations in these matters.

Responsible administrative Units :

Rector's Office, School Directors, Financial Department, International Relations and International Student Services Office

A Strategic Initiative

6. Internationalization of the curriculum

The implementation of the international elements into the curriculum has been taking place at the University of Georgia for years, which contributes to the existence of a solid and convenient basis for increasing the pace and scale of internationalization in the future.

Recommendations:

- Monitoring the presence of intercultural and international elements in all training courses to the best of possibilities.
- Support of academic staff and employees to participate in trainings on intercultural and international curriculum.
- Providing support to the research component of the academic staff.
- Work on strengthening the competence of English and other foreign languages, improving the method of measuring the effectiveness of teaching in these languages and increasing the number of native speaker teachers.

Responsible administrative Units :

Rector's Office, School Directors, Financial Department, Quality Assurance Department

Conclusion

The University of Georgia has a long history of developing international relations and showing international initiatives. If this document is successfully, we believe that the degree of internationalization of the University of Georgia will increase significantly, which will be directly reflected in the increase in the number of international students, as well as in the number of international employees, and in the preparation of our students in accordance to the expectations that the modern global career market demands.

Also, here we would like to note that the document was prepared by the International Relations and International Student Services Office of the University of Georgia, and all its recommendations, as the content of the document explains, are not a direct order for any structural unit of the university, but are recommendations for the rector and the academic council.