

Internationalization Policy of BSU

Article 1. General provisions

1. Legal entity under public law - Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University (hereinafter - "University" or "BSU") The basis for developing the internationalization policy (hereinafter - "Internationalization Policy") is the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education", the Law of Georgia "On Education" on the development of quality", standards of authorization and accreditation of educational programs of the Higher Education Institution, tasks determined by the unified strategy of education and science of the country, university charter, mission, strategic development plan, legal acts of the university's management bodies, basic documents of the Bologna process, tools and others.

2. The continuous development of the internationalization policy as a priority of the state policy of Georgia is one of the priorities of BSU. The internationalization policy serves to promote the university's integration with the European higher education space, Establishing a place in the global educational space, increasing recognition, involvement in the international educational academic space, integration into international professional associations and university networks, intercultural dialogue, ensuring global competitiveness, internationalization of learning/teaching and research based on quality improvement.

3. BSU's internationalization policy is created as a supporting document of BSU's strategic development plan, which aims to effectively and consistently conduct the process of integration, cooperation and internationalization of BSU in the international educational space; To introduce an international, intercultural and global dimension in the process of institutional functioning of the university.

4. Internationalization is one of the main priorities of BSU, which is reflected in the mission and strategic development plan of the university, which:

a) is based on the principles of dynamism, transparency, academic integrity and accountability;

b) includes the process of learning, teaching and research;

c) promotes the internationalization of students and staff mobility, development/elaboration/implementation of joint educational programmes and/or projects at different levels of education, involvement and support in international research, improvement of creative activities and others;

d) aims at sharing the best international experience, shaping perspectives, finding ways to fulfill set tasks, etc. in relation to teaching-learning approaches, determining research priorities and creative practices;

e) provides for the involvement of students, academic, scientific, administrative and guest personnel in the process of internationalization;

f) ensures effective use of the results of internationalization in the activities of the university.

5. Internationalization should be understood as an effective tool for the development of the quality of teaching and scientific research.

Article 2. Responsible entities/persons

1. First of all, the Department of Strategic Development and International Relations of BSU, as well as the Scientific Research Service, Public Relations Service, Quality Assurance Service, Head of Administration, Deputy Rectors, Faculty Deans are responsible for the development and implementation of the internationalization policy.
2. The activities of the persons of the structural units responsible for the development and implementation of the internationalization policy will be conducted in accordance with the legal acts of BSU and this policy, based on the principles of mutual cooperation, transparency, respect and responsibility.
3. In order to successfully implement the internationalization policy, the Department of Strategic Development and International Relations actively works with the governing bodies of the university, various structural units and interested parties.

Article 3. Objectives of Internationalization Policy

The main objective of BSU's internationalization policy is for the university to be a higher educational and research center with European values and international significance:

- a) which will have high international recognition;
- b) whose students, professors and researchers will actively participate in exchange programmes;
- c) which will be involved in the implementation of joint educational programmes, scientific-research projects and creative events;
- d) will promote the internationalization of science;
- e) which will unite in international university and professional associations;
- f) which will have active cooperation with foreign universities and research centers.

Article 4. Tasks of internationalization policy and ways to solve them

1. The task of internationalization of the university is to develop the university into an outstanding institution, with innovations adapted to the needs of the society, with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research.
2. There are ways to solve the tasks of internationalization policy (and the following activities and measures should be implemented):
 - a) within the Erasmus+ international mobility program (ICM - International Credit Mobility), sign relevant agreements with partner universities regarding exchange programs for students, academic and administration staff;
 - b) within the framework of direct bilateral agreements with partner international universities, to implement joint projects in the fields of study/teaching and research, as well as student and staff exchange programs, joint research;

- c) promotion of research programs and introduction of opportunities and advantages of international research grant programs to academic and scientific staff of the university and promotion of participation in the program; In the framework of international grant projects, according to directions, inclusion in international scientific clusters; Facilitation of unification of the university in library networks and consortia and access to databases of foreign language scientific works;
- d) participation of administrative staff in international weeks organized by partner universities, for the purpose of internationalization, sharing international experience, advertising and increasing awareness of the university, signing bilateral agreements on international mobility (Erasmus+ or others);
- e) promotion of mutual cooperation with foreign educational and scientific centers - signing memorandums of cooperation with foreign higher education institutions and monitoring the fulfillment of the obligations stipulated by these memorandums;
- f) organization of international forums, conferences, congresses, seminars and summer schools by BSU and the participation of students, researchers, academic and invited staff, foreign experts in them;
- g) cooperation with foreign universities and research centers - involvement of foreign academic staff in university life, which contributes to the deepening of scientific dialogue, increasing awareness and professional development;
- h) promoting the participation of students, academic and invited staff in scientific events and summer schools organized outside the country;
- i) increasing the international student contingent from different countries. Promotion of the recruitment process of foreign students and students participating in mobility; Development of strategy mechanisms for attracting foreign students to BSU study programmes;
- j) participation in international education forums (periodically/regularly); in order to raise the international awareness of the university; implementation of international information and marketing campaigns (together with administration, public relations service);
- k) identification of international market requirements and development of English-language educational programs of the relevant university;
- l) development and implementation of joint study programmes; Writing the procedures for the development of joint study programmes, which provides for the outline of the content of the programme and the selection of partners; is based on the common interest of the partner universities, a joint initiative and a clear definition of responsibilities and obligations between the entities implementing the program in the process of planning and implementation; aims to prepare a joint educational program taking into account the recommendations of the Lisbon Convention of Recognition;
- m) creation of diverse student support services, multicultural environment, conducting cultural integration events; implementation of extracurricular activities;
- n) creation of the alumni association of international exchange and other programmes, their active involvement in raising the international awareness of the university;
- o) involvement in international university and research networks;
- p) encouraging staff to engage in international study/teaching and research projects;

for the implementation of publications in international high-rated publications;

- q) obtaining information and systematically informing students and academic/administrative staff about study and research opportunities abroad; about grant competitions announced by various universities, research centers and international foundations;
- r) for the institutionalization of internationalization, strengthening of cooperation with embassies, diplomatic corps, foreign organizations and foundations of foreign countries operating in Georgia, planning of joint events;
- s) administration of international exchange programmes in accordance with the regulation established in BSU, which ensures the transparency of the competition (by posting information about the competition conditions, procedures and deadlines on the university's website: www.bsu.edu.ge);
- t) other activities/measures that will contribute to the effective implementation of the present policy of internationalization of BSU.

Article 5. Final Provisions

1. With the present policy of internationalization of BSU The identity of the structural units/persons responsible for monitoring the fulfillment of the stipulated obligations determined by the rector's order.
2. Amendments and additions to this policy document can be made by the resolution of the Academic Council.