



Internationalisation Strategy

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Internationalisation Strategy Nuremberg Institute of Technology





Process Description and Alignment with University Strategy

The Nuremberg Institute of Technology is a university of applied sciences with strong regional roots in a globalised world.

The university's development is closely tied to the profile of the region and its prospective development. Over the past 15 years, the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg has become a key research and development location and scientific centre for international companies.

The city of Nuremberg is among the major cities in Germany with the highest percentage of foreign citizens and Germans with a migration background making up 45% of the population.

International and intercultural exposure are therefore essential components of university life. The following objective was stated in the submission for the special status of Technische Hochschule Nürnberg in 2013 "Nuremberg Tech offers its students a studying and working environment shaped by research, international exposure and practical experience which prepares them for careers in international environments."

To better maintain and advance this objective, the university management decided to participate in the German Rector's Conference (HRK) internationalisation audit in 2014.

The result of this year-long audit was this internationalisation strategy for the entire university. Members of university management, students, lecturers, guest researchers, and employees from administration and services were all involved in the audit process. This input has shaped the internationalisation strategy of the university.

The internationalisation strategy of the Nuremberg Institute of Technology has the objective of making international and cultural exchange available to all members of the university whether on campus or abroad.

Five key areas were identified for developing internationalisation at Nuremberg Tech. The internationalisation of the university is part of the target agreements between Nuremberg Tech and the Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Science and the Arts (2013-2018). The target agreements are resolved for the duration of five years and form the basis for this internationalisation strategy with specific and measurable targets.



The Nuremberg Institute of Technology offers German and international students an attractive range of degree programs with international aspects. All students have the opportunity to acquire the skills needed for succeeding in international and intercultural environments. During their studies at university, students acquire skills which are essential in a labour market characterised by globalisation and internationalisation. This includes foreign language proficiency, knowledge of European and international contexts, cultural differences within subject fields, knowledge and understanding of other cultures and ways of working, and expanding their own personal horizons.

Focus on Studying and Teaching

As many students still complete their degrees without a stay abroad, we are promoting internationalisation and multilingualism in the learning environment and degree programs as well as ensuring mobility within the curriculum. In addition to studying abroad, many students are increasingly pursuing an internship in Europe or further abroad. Another aspect of internationalisation in studying is to develop the portfolio of mobility formats in the curriculum to offer domestic students the best opportunities for studying abroad.

Objectives:

- Increasing the number of outgoing students studying abroad
- Offering international and foreign language study material in degree programs
- Improving students' language skills at Nuremberg Tech
- Providing university members the skills to succeed in international environments

Measures:

- New master's degree programs will include a compulsory international component
- Developing standardised mobility formats (bachelor's and master's degree programs)
- Improving information and advice for teaching staff and students on funding opportunities for short visits, project weeks and the Erasmus+ program.
- New study abroad web portal for outgoing students
- Integrating guest researchers and international study materials in courses
- Translating documents relevant to studying and teaching and providing these on the university website
- Adding more English-language lectures which can also be combined by content and duration into 30 ECTS credit packages for exchange students.
- Intercultural skills workshops for all students



Exchange students and guest researchers contribute to the international environment on campus and enrich studying and research at the university. Collaborative projects with international partners provide the opportunity for German students and teachers to engage in international and intercultural dialogue. Exposure to cultural diversity during studying increases the employment opportunities in international environments for graduates of Nuremberg Tech.

Focus on International Campus

The following measures aim to increase students' awareness of international university and career networks and encourage them to study abroad during their degree program.

Objectives:

- Increasing the number of incoming students (exchange students and degree seeking students)
- Increasing the number of guest lecturers
- Reducing the drop-out rate of international students
- Boosting the visibility of the international campus

Measures:

- International days for the whole university as well as cultural and international programs (e.g., "mi casa es tu casa", language tandem courses and "Club International")
- Optimising welcome measures for incoming students and guest researchers (e.g., buddy programs)
- Expanding orientation programs for international students who have completed their university entrance qualification abroad and launching peer-learning courses and networks organised by students (Landing Community initiative)
- Introducing summer schools in Germany and abroad in cooperation with partner cities of Nuremberg, partner universities, business associations and research networks
- Providing information in other languages on the website for prospective students
- Informing DSH examination candidates and students attending preparatory courses about degree programs at Nuremberg Tech
- Multilingual contacts, documents and advising at service offices
- Improvement of support structures and resources for internationalisation measures (university administration and faculty specific)



The research activities at Nuremberg Tech are an integral part of its internationalisation strategy. Applied research projects contribute significantly to the visibility of our university in international research.

Nuremberg Tech aims to establish research collaborations with foreign partner universities and to support researchers' networking activities in the scientific community. The university's research profile is defined by its publications, presentations at international conferences in Germany and abroad and by hosting specialist conferences at the university.

Focus on Research

Research stays of students, doctoral candidates, researchers and professors are an important measure for extending international networks and maintaining contact with research institutions throughout the world.

Research and development in cooperation with global companies also contributes to international networking and is promoted by the university.

Objectives:

- Increase the visibility of Nuremberg Tech in the scientific community
- Strengthen the international research reputation of the university
- Increase the international mobility of teaching staff and researchers

Measures:

- Funding for international research projects and the initiation and application phases of EU projects through seed funding from the TH action program
- Reducing teaching requirements to allow staff to participate in international research projects
- Introducing summer schools in Germany and abroad in cooperation with partner cities, partner universities, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and research associations
- Enabling participation in international conferences and supporting the organization of international conferences in Nuremberg
- Applying for funding and scholarship programs for research stays for students and doctoral candidates
- Advertising research stay opportunities in institutes and competence centers at Nuremberg Tech at international research institutions
- Support for publications in English



Nuremberg Tech maintains extensive contacts to universities around the world. The university aims to intensify and stimulate collaboration through continuous exchange. Cooperating with international partners provides opportunities to mutually expand the range of degree programs at the university and at the partner institution, to offer exchange programs for teaching and administrative staff and to contribute to international projects. Existing cooperations will be developed accordingly in these areas. In addition to universities, Nuremberg Tech's partner network includes companies, research institutions and public organizations.

Focus on Partner Network

Nuremberg Tech will identify long-term strategic partnerships with key foreign universities in the areas of university development and policy, teaching and research strategy and international networking.

Objectives:

- Develop the quality of partner networks between research and industry
- Advance bilateral cooperation for exchange in teaching and research
- Forge key strategic partnerships at the university management level

Measures:

- Defining criteria for evaluating partnerships with international universities
- Expanding double degree programs with partner universities (bachelor's and master's degree programs)
- Encouraging companies in countries and industries that are in demand to offer internships and thesis project opportunities
- Increasing the number of places for exchange students at partner universities
- Increasing the number of exchange opportunities for faculty and staff to intensify and expand partnerships (Erasmus+)
- Exploring strategic international partnerships and memberships in international networks (for example EUA, Euclides Network)



Ensuring that internationalisation is reflected throughout the university is a key task of the university management. The university management is responsible for providing the structures and resources to achieve our internationalisation objectives.

The Committee for International Relations, which includes representatives from each of the Faculties, focuses on the continual development and implementation of the internationalisation strategy and each representative, in turn, supports their own Faculty in preparing Faculty-specific internationalisation concepts.

Focus on University Management

All organizational units at Nuremberg Tech are committed to customer and service orientation within the strategy process. The International Office, Language Center and Research Services have important roles in implementing measures in the five key areas of the internationalisation strategy.

The internationalisation of university administration and the language and intercultural competencies of all university members is essential for the internationalisation of research and teaching. In this vein, the university will expand professional development opportunities for learning foreign languages and intercultural skills. The university has a clear interest and goal that more employees use the opportunities afforded to them in the Erasmus staff mobility program to learn more about the working cultures and administrative processes of universities in other European countries.

Objectives:

- Improve the intercultural and language skills of all university members
- Implement management structures and instruments for the internationalisation process

Measures:

- Introducing an internal professional development program for administrative staff with modules for language learning, intercultural training and participation in the Erasmus+ staff mobility program.
- Establishing international mobility as an instrument for staff development
- Developing a key performance indicator system for evaluating and managing the internationalisation process
- Refining faculty recruitment policy with additional criteria for evaluating international competence (language skills, experience abroad, international project experience)



The compilation of this internationalisation strategy by the Committee for International Relations and its resolution by the university management and subsequent presentation to the university committees serve to reinforce and effectively communicate Nuremberg Tech's commitment to this process and its goals, both internally and externally.

The university aims to achieve a high level of acceptance for the planned measures among all members of the university.

Future Outlook

This internationalisation strategy is subject to regular review. The planned measures will be evaluated in terms of their implementation and revisions may be made. The Committee for International Relations and the internationalisation representative of the university management are responsible for evaluating the implementation of the internationalisation strategy.

As internationalisation is such an important strategic area for the university, a key performance report on internationalisation will be published each year with a quantitative assessment of the extent to which objectives have been achieved. The results will also be included in the annual report of the university management.

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