

Internationalization Policy of Learning/Teaching and Scientific Activities of Akaki Tsereteli State University

1. The policy goal

The goal of the Internationalization Policy of Learning/Teaching and Scientific Activities (hereinafter – “the Internationalization Policy”) of Akaki Tsereteli State University (hereinafter – “the University”) is to promote internationalization of learning/teaching and scientific activities at the University in order to provide open academic environment for Georgian and foreign students, scientific, academic and administrative personnel, that will facilitate full realization of their personal potential and integration into international educational and scientific processes.

2. Sphere of usage

The Internationalization Policy and procedures are used at the University to carry out learning/teaching, scientific activities and student services, as well as all kinds of exchange programs with HEIs in other countries.

3. Responsibility

The University governing bodies are responsible for the development and approval of the Internationalization Policy and procedures.

Responsibility for implementing the internationalization procedures, within their competence, is taken by:

- The University administration;
- The Foreign Affairs and Strategic Development Office;
- Deans of the faculties;
- All the structural units of the University.

The Foreign Affairs and Strategic Development Office is coordinating the work on the development, implementation and evaluation of internationalization policies and procedures.

4. Internationalization Policy guiding principles

In accordance with good governance principles, the Internationalization Policy of the University is based on the following guiding principles:

- Fairness

There is a fair argument and objective criterion for decision making beyond any decision;

- Equality

Everyone is shown the same, impartial approach regardless of their gender, racial, ethnic, religious or other status. It is impermissible to use "hate speech" and any kind of discrimination.

- Transparency

The University policy, processes and decisions are public and available to all interested parties.

- **Supremacy of public interest**

All the processes taking place in the organization and any decision are focused on maximally high quality service offerings. At the same time, processes are organized in a way to make productive spending of the state funds.

- **Social responsibility**

The University is aware of its social responsibility towards the society, thus encouraging its employees to do their work without affecting the nature and environment, to act ethically, taking into consideration the needs of different groups of society, to make a positive contribution to the development of the country and solve social, economic and environmental problems.

5. Internationalization Policy

The work of promoting internationalization of learning/teaching and scientific activities at the University is a combination of managerial decisions based on the declared guiding principles of internationalization and promotes the realization of aspirations and objectives of Georgian and foreign students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent, taking into account their personal qualities and experience.

The Policy includes organizational management, learning/teaching, scientific work, service implementation and quality management issues.

To achieve the goals set out in the Internationalization Policy, four main directions are separated, the development of which is taken care of by the University:

- Development of institutional partnership;
- Recruitment and integration of foreign students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent;
- International mobility of students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent of ATSU;
- Increase in the quality of learning/teaching, scientific activities and student services at the University.

On the other hand, each direction may include several key activities and programs in the direction of developing a particular possibility.

5.1. Development of institutional partnership

The University considers institutional partnership as an opportunity and way to further integration of the University and university society into international educational and scientific processes.

Development of institutional partnership implies:

- Joint implementation of academic and research programs;
- Programs to raise competences of academic, scientific and administrative staff;
- Facilitating the introduction and development of effective managerial systems at the University.
- Active cooperation with all major donor organizations in the region with special programs and projects for higher educational institutions in order to find international projects: European Commission-Erasmus+; Horizon 2020, NATO; GIZ; USAID; Millenium Chalange Corporation (MCA Georgia); Volkswagen Foundation, US State Department, British Council; DAAD; CEU; etc.
- Creation and accreditation of new foreign language programs;
- Signing/development of international agreements with regard to the needs of the faculties/deans;
- Finding and getting in touch with international funds;
- Renewing the image of the University at the local and international level
- Sending information materials about the University to the embassies of Georgia accredited abroad, partner universities and other higher educational institutions;
- Placing information about foreign language programs and courses in the English language on the University website;

5.2. Recruitment and integration of foreign students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent

With the development of modern environment for foreign students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent, and the support of socio-cultural integration, their effective involvement in the educational and research activities of ATSU is provided.

The modern working and training environment implies:

- Access to educational, working and living space equipped with modern information and communication equipment;
- Access to well-equipped research laboratories;
- Access to scientific publications, e-journals and databases;
- Access to English, academic, scientific and administrative contingent at the University;
- Access to innovative teaching methods and tools;

Socio-cultural integration means;

- Student services tailored to student requirements;

- Services and programs aimed at adaptation and integration of foreign students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent;

The University welcomes and facilitates attracting foreign students both through direct entry and student mobility.

Under the activity of attracting foreign students, we mean:

- Access to English-language curriculum programs oriented on the diverse and base requirements accredited in Georgia;
- Access to Georgian language preparatory educational program;
- Cooperation with international governmental, non-governmental and professional institutions and implementation of joint projects;
- Use of active news and advertising channels in high interest countries from foreign entrants;

Student mobility support activities are defined as:

- Active involvement in international exchange and scientific programs that support student international mobility;
- Offering high quality English language educational courses and improved learning and social environment for foreign students within Georgia;
- Establishing direct linkages for the exchange of student, academic and administrative contingent with a foreign HEI.

5.3. International mobility of ATSU students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent

The University considers the international mobility of its students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent on the one hand to be a facilitator of full realization of their personal potential and on the other hand to be an instrument that will involve the University involvement in the processes of international education and scientific research.

Under the work of facilitating international mobility of students, academic, scientific and administrative contingents, we mean:

- Access to high quality educational programs based on modern methods of learning/teaching at the University;
- Promotion of innovative scientific activities at the university;
- Access to English language courses for the University students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent;
- Promotion services of involvement in international exchange programs for the University students, academic, scientific and administrative contingent;

- Active involvement in international exchange and scientific programs supported by international mobility.

5.4. Increase in the quality of learning/teaching, scientific activities and student services at the University

The internationalization process is considered by the University as an opportunity to get access to knowledge, resources and qualified staff that can be managed to improve the quality of learning / teaching, scientific activities and student services at the University.

The University considers it possible:

- To implement quality management standards not only for English language, but also for all educational programs, scientific activities and organizational management system at the University;
- To provide institutional support in the development of quality system of learning/teaching, scientific activities and student services from foreign universities and government agencies ;
- To involve foreign lecturers and researchers in the study process and research projects;
- To attract academic and administrative personnel with international experience;
- To develop post-mobility report system

In order to achieve the goals of policy, the University will carry out a strategic direction to strengthen internationalization, which is a set of goals to achieve the goal of facilitating internationalization of learning/teaching, scientific activities and student services and specific tasks to achieve these goals. The strategy involves planning and implementation of activities so that it can provide maximal support in achieving the goals faced by the organization in a short-term and long-term perspective.