

INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF YURIY FEDKOVYCH CHERNIVTSI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, UKRAINE

Introduction

Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University (hereafter CHNU) is one of the oldest and largest classical universities in Ukraine, which is located in a grand edifice in picturesque Chernivtsi, a complex, constructed in 1864 – 1882 as the Residence of Bukovynian and Dalmatian Metropolitans according to the project of the renowned Czech architect Joseph Hlavka. CHNU, providing training for over 16 000 students, is one of the biggest, richest in their tradition universities in Ukraine, with an incredibly wide spectrum of programs offered and a great variety of recognized occupational priorities. The administrative structure of the university includes the International Office, whose main objective is implementation of the international activity strategy, expansion and extension of international relations, enhancement of development of international cooperation in the field of education and science.

The internationalization strategy of CHNU corresponds to the legislation system, specifically as follows:

- Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education” as of 01.07.2014 #1556-VII;
- Law of Ukraine “On Education”;
- Regulation on Implementation Procedure of Academic Mobility Right #579 as of 12.08.2015
- Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University Regulations, adopted by the Trade Union Conference on 25 April 2016, approved and registered in the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on 23 November 2016;
- Respective resolution of the Academic Board of CHNU;
- Other laws and regulations in the field of higher education.

Aims of Internationalization Strategy

With the aim of improvement, expansion and enhancement of international relations and authority of CHNU in the international community, further increase of competitiveness of the university in the international arena in the nearest future, CHNU has developed a consistent internationalization strategy as a guide for their activity.

Strategic aims of internationalization of CHNU:

- Increase of competitiveness of CHNU and its structural subdivisions in the international arena;
- Enhancement of university attractiveness for foreign students, academic and administrative staff of partner higher education institutions and research institutions;
- Growth of international collaboration in the field of education and science pursuant to international standards;
- Development of modern up to date curricula and research programs, which are attractive for international students, academic and administrative staff;
- Efficient integration of CHNU researchers in the international research community with the aim of increasing the quality of their research and teaching.
- Enhancement of international mobility in education and research;
- Development and implementation of numerous projects funded by the European Union, USA, Canada and other countries.

Internationalization strategy simultaneously takes into account different capacities and academic freedom of structural subdivisions; it is institutionalized at the rectorate level of the university, administration, institutes, faculties, and other structural subdivisions. Internationalization does not stand for the need of structural subdivisions of the university, but their contribution to the reputation and significance of CHNU in the national and

international arena by means of internationally oriented events aimed at quality assurance in the field of education and science.

Simultaneously, CHNU concentrates on the existent international activity, which is successful as well as its improvement within the university and beyond it.

Education without Borders: Fostering Internationalization of Teaching-Learning Process

International and intercultural experience are the essential elements of modern higher education.

Internationalization of teaching-learning process in CHNU concerns first of all three main objectives:

- Enrollment and integration of international students;
- Internationalization of courses and curricula;
- Strengthening student and staff exchange.

In the given context, the tasks to achieve the aforementioned aims are as follows.

First and foremost, CHNU will promote academic mobility (incoming / outgoing) for the enhancement of students' international and intercultural competence. The opportunities provided in CHNU (agreements with partner universities, support opportunities, exchange programs) are incredibly varied and are in high demand among students (as evidenced by a great number of students sent or accepted for academic mobility throughout an academic year). CHNU aims at qualitatively improving and structurally strengthening the academic mobility opportunities for students at the Bachelor, Master, PhD level, in addition to establishing balance between incoming and outgoing mobility.

Secondly, CHNU strives to enhance internationalization of curricula at all levels (Bachelor, Master, PhD). Alongside the promotion of academic staff with the aim of teaching (Erasmus+ KA107, DAAD, KAAD, Fulbright, cooperation

agreements between universities, etc.), an important task is structural introduction and adoption of international and intercultural elements in curricula.

Furthermore, CHNU seeks to further expand the number of foreign languages taught (first of all English) programs and international programs (for instance, double degree program, etc.), since they reflect structural adoption, development and distribution of international and intercultural competence the most. Simultaneously, these are appealing offers for international students.

Internationalization of teaching-learning process also includes integration of international and Ukrainian students. Providing conditions to enable students of different nationalities and cultures to get together, will significantly increase the possibilities for the competence acquisition of all students. The integration will occur beyond the studying process as well. CHNU promotes openness and creates opportunities for active meetings of Ukrainian and international students, first of all, in the extracurricular environment.

Institutes, faculties and the International Office will resume the optimization of their activity regarding support of international students and counseling CHNU students concerning exchange programs abroad, and the improvement of the existent offers. The communication, service and activity of the university have to be realized with the participation of international students and researchers in addition to consideration of cultural variety.

International Science: Expansion and Optimization of Support Units for International Research

Conducting research does not depend on state borders, ethnic, cultural or religious preconditions. CHNU recognizes itself as a member of the international system of research institutions in the global scientific community. With the aim of achieving the set objective, CHNU pays meticulous attention to:

- Application of international standards to all the fields of research;
- Establishment of research contacts and partnership with leading institutions from all over the world;
- Invitation of researchers renowned at the international level;
- Increase of international researchers;
- Creation of opportunities for young researchers to obtain international experience, and thus continue the internationalization of studying while obtaining a PhD degree and Doctor of Sciences degree, and after the defense of the degree.

Research in CHNU has strong international relations. CHNU Researchers maintain a vast array of contacts with universities and research intuitions all over the world. The initiative for the establishment of contacts is mainly started by the researchers and is based on joint research interests.

The aim of research cooperation is to conduct joint research projects and exchange of researchers, who are participants of these projects. International scientific cooperation is facilitated by the existence of favorable conditions for the implementation of high-quality research, and cosmopolitan atmosphere at the university.

The participation of CHNU researchers in joint international research programs has to become more significant. Especially, it is necessary to use the opportunities offered by the programs of the European Union, international research groups and individual research associations more extensively. Centralized support as to the establishment and expansion of respective research networks in the future is of particular importance. The proposals of support provided to CHNU members on their acceptance to such programs comprise professional counseling and assistance in the application process and search for projects as well as project management. Such service is always improved.

Internationalization of Administration

The third component of the university activity alongside research and education is administration. It approves and adopts the main tasks of CHNU internationalization and establishes the framework conditions for participants of international activity. The International Office plays a particular role, which has always been development and implementation of internationalization events. The activity of the office is realized in the following directions:

- Coordination of academic and scientific cooperation with international educational institutions and research organizations;
- Establishment and maintenance of relations with diplomatic missions of other countries;
- Assistance for students and staff of the university with the participation in international programs;
- Acceptance of international students;
- Issue of work invitations for professors, researchers from the institutions of other countries;
- Coordination of work of institutes, faculties, departments and other structural CHNU subdivisions regarding the efficiency enhancement of international agreement relations with international partners;
- International collaboration in the fields of culture and sport;
- Providing service concerning the acceptance of foreign professionals and students to CHNU as well as international mobility of academic and administrative staff, and students of our university within the framework of cooperation agreements with partner universities or within the grants allocated by international organizations;
- Organization of language practice for CHNU students abroad;
- Organization of staff and student mobility;

- Preparation, processing, collection of data regarding international programs, funds, funding organizations;
- Search for international partner universities;
- Reception of international delegations and specialists;
- Enhancement of the university image abroad;
- Development and implementation of innovative projects;
- Development and implementation of international projects;
- Participation in international forums, conferences, seminars;
- Participation in international programs and projects involving grants;
- Participation of the university in international university and student association.

The university administration also contributes to the promotion of internationalization. First of all, these efforts are directed towards the adjustment of administrative procedures to the requirements of international target groups in order to correspond to the status of a cosmopolitan university.

The university administration is an important and often starting point for CHNU internationalization. The administration subdivisions (specifically IRO) assist and provide counseling to international students, support international academic mobility of CHNU staff and students.

Tolerant of other cultures and competent administration is an essential link for constant internationalization process of CHNU. In future it will participate more intensively in the establishment and implementation of internationalization in CHNU.

Internationalization in administration also means internationalization of the working process and formal procedures. The staff of the International Office, Academic and Curriculum Office, Research Office and any other structural subdivision of the university, that carry out international activity or promotes it, have to extensively gain international experience and acquire respective skills in Ukraine and abroad.

International Cooperation, Contacts, Key Regions

In order to continue to constantly support research and studying process in CHNU at the competitive level in the international community, the integration in the world network of universities and research institutions is essential. This statement has many aspects beginning from individual scientific and teaching cooperation with researchers of leading world institutions and various forms of institutionalized collaboration between institutes or faculties to long-term partnership with universities.

Motivated from below, individual international cooperation of active researchers of our university in the field of research and education shall not be affected by borders in terms of geography or selection of topics, and shall receive support in our favorable university environment.

In building and maintaining partnerships between universities and general activity in the international arena, CHNU, nonetheless, should determine priorities due to the limited resources. Priority regions are the regions where CHNU can gain competent advantages for itself or actively present its interests with the aim to achieve its objectives for competitive representation in the international arena.

Owing to its many-faceted international activity, CHNU strengthens its international network contacts, and thus increases its international visibility and attractiveness, as well as takes scientific and social responsibility in global educational community. Nowadays priority regions are as follows: first of all, the EU countries (Poland, Germany, Romania, Lithuania, the Slovak Republic, etc.), neighboring countries and North America (particularly the USA and Canada). One more aspect, which is by no means less useful or promising, is search for partners and signing agreements with higher education institutions in Asia, Latin America and Africa in order to attract international students to obtain full-time education. Considering recent tendencies of the development of

education and world economic processes, the Asian countries are coming to the fore, specifically China.

In the realization process of its internationalization strategy, CHNU aims at keeping abreast with international educational processes and enhancing its positions in the modern international educational space.

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