
TRNAVA UNIVERSITY IN TRNAVA
FAITHFUL TO VALUES, WITH HONOUR TO TRADITIONS AND OPEN TO CHALLENGES



INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF TRNAVA UNIVERSITY IN TRNAVA IN THE PERIOD 2020-2026





Foreword by the Rector of Trnava University

Trnava University in Trnava is a medium-sized, humanity-oriented university; it is entitled to use the label of 'research university'. Its residence is in the historically ancient and university city, where the original Trnava University, administered by the Jesuits, was established by Cardinal Pázmány in 1635. Claiming allegiance to this original university, present-day Trnava University recalls not only the historic roots, but it also realises the value of cooperation with the world net of Jesuit higher education institutions operating independently or in union with other secular institutions. This forms the basic framework and orientation of international cooperation of Trnava University in Trnava.

Prof. PaedDr. René Bílik, Csc.
Rector of University

Introduction

One of the pillars of former or present-day Jesuit educational institutions, which invoke these values, is a strong awareness of the significance of internationalisation of educational processes.

University education brings responsibility for ourselves and others, as well as the whole of society. We are therefore aware of the importance of the introduction of research and educational processes so that they will appropriately transform society into a more just society.

We would like to fulfil our visions and expectations and to become an excellent educational and research institution in the globalised world. Our intention is to have an internationally-oriented team of scholars as well as students who will be able to cooperate effectively with the best staffs in the globalised world.

The links between traditional Jesuit educational values, which are properly embedded into the alliance with state educational institutions create suitable conditions in order for Trnava University to become a leader in the dialogue between new spectra in pluralistic society as well as in disseminating scientific outputs of European and world-wide significance.





Our History of Internalisation

In connection with the tradition and history of the former Trnava University, it is claimed that the international character has been present at Trnava University for more than 385 years. The first representatives of the university – its scholars as well as students – were members of several nations and nationalities of those times. This international variety is preserved and has been further developed. The personalities of the ancient Trnava University, famous beyond the borders of Hungary, who should be mentioned, are Martin Sentivánni SJ, professor of natural sciences, polymath and writer, František Weiss SJ, astronomer and meteorologist, Andreas Renner, tenor and musical composer, Jakub Reineggs, actor, traveller, doctor and natural scientist, personal adviser and economy reformer in the court of the King of Georgia. Our graduate is prof. Miloš Lichner, who, in 2019, became president of the European Society for Catholic Theology, which is the biggest theology association in Europe.

Currently, we can mention that intensifying cooperation with a Nepalese educational institution of Jesuit origin resulted in the admission of the first Nepalese student to the doctoral programme in the academic year 2019-2020.

Key Points of Our Internationalisation

The development of international cooperation is one of the principal priorities of Trnava University in Trnava. The internationalisation of activities accounts for the key domain of the development of the university and its faculties in the context of our membership in the European Union as well as in the perspective of future development. Although international cooperation is to focus on mainly the countries of the European Union, due to the mission, the nature of teaching and scientific-research activities, it is necessary to develop appropriate relations with the workplaces in other parts of Europe and the world. Acquiring quality international contacts and experiences contributes to the enhancement of the position of the university in Slovakia. It is also added value for the accreditation of the university. The strengthening of Trnava University's position in international organisations, the internationalisation of all university activities by developing existing activities, programmes and projects, which will be developed in the European Union, can be considered a dominant goal of the internationalisation of Trnava University in Trnava. The bilateral contracts concluded within the programme ERASMUS+ contribute to significant expansion of the portfolio of bilateral contracts.

Opening space for international cooperation is necessary for the development of our university and at the same time, it is consistent with current development in education in the entire world. Permanently developing needs of the labour market at national and international levels require qualified graduates from international outreach university studies. Integrating international elements into education, sharing experiences and developing the language and intercultural skills of students and university staff increase the competitiveness of higher education and the level of graduates, and intensify the quality of human resources at universities. These factors contribute to the compensation of brain drain and support so called brain circulation, which sustains the continual exchange of the most up-to-date knowledge directly on the domestic front.

The policy for internationalisation at Trnava University in Trnava is conditioned by the current internationalisation of the academic environment, as well as by general globalisation, which represents a large number of opportunities and challenges. The policy for internationalisation is based on a pro-active approach, which naturally complements and extends the fundamental activities at university in the areas of education, research and cooperation with praxis.

In autumn 2019, Trnava University concluded the memorandum on cooperation with eight other universities in Slovakia, the aim of which was to establish a consortium of Slovak universities, grouping the universities around the geographical centre of Europe..

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At the beginning of 2020, Trnava University established a consortium with Leuphan University in Lüneburg and other prominent European universities from Germany, Poland, Portugal and Spain. Trnava University is one of four universities in Slovakia that has joined a consortium with other European higher education institutions. European universities are transnational alliances, which will become the universities of the future, supporting European values and identity, and are expected to bring a revolution in the quality and competitiveness of European higher education.

The presence of foreign students and teachers in our institution as well as regular studies and research stays of our scholars and students abroad enable them to learn more about the world. A number of projects in Africa and Asia, the achievement of which is realistic assistance in a particular country as well as some support to the development of the local intelligentsia, should be mentioned.



Strategically concluded partnerships with more than nine institutions provide a plenitude of challenges as well as opportunities, which offer students and scholars new understanding of other cultures, new perspectives and experiences.

Our Expectations and Aims

Our intention is to become a leader in a dialogue with new spectra in a pluralistic society as well as the extension of scientific outputs of European and worldwide significance.

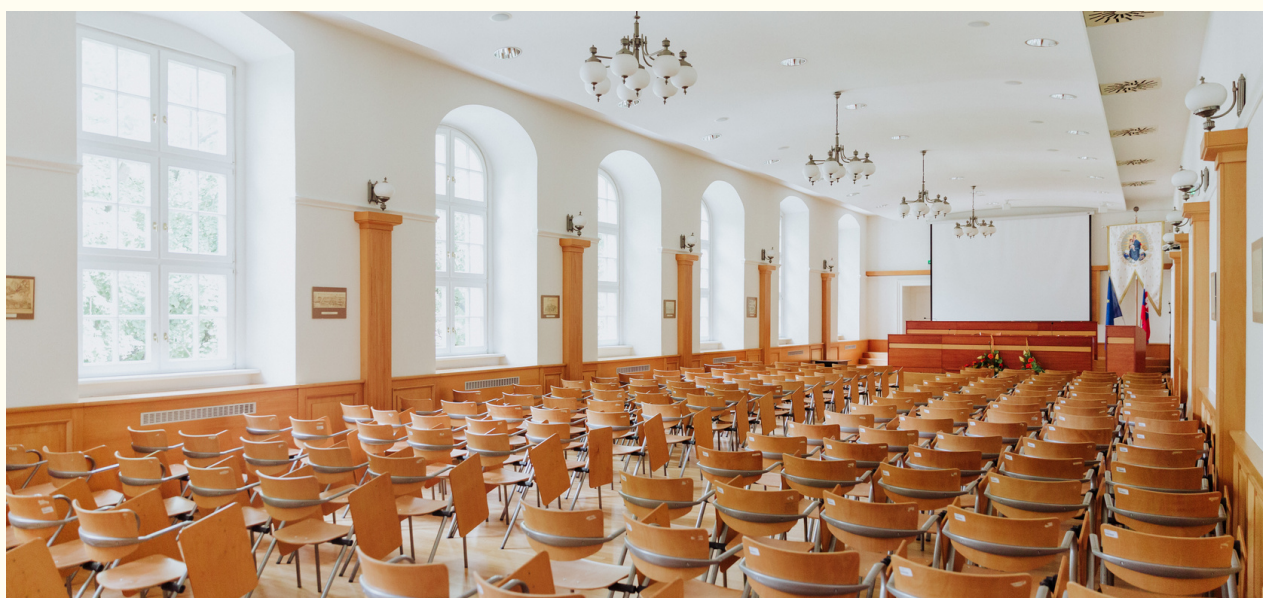
This brings growing emphasis on sustaining and enhancing quality of research and education. We are convinced that intensifying internationalisation and strategically established partnerships allows for the pursuit of sustainable levels of excellence at Trnava University. In this sense, we support the feedback reflection of foreign academic scholars and students as well as of related and varied institutions, in order to be able to critically evaluate and to ensure the sustainability of desired and expected quality of science, research and education.



Strategic Aims

Aim 1: Internationalisation in the Domain of Higher Education:

- To increase the proportion and quality of offered study programmes delivered in English or, more precisely, other foreign languages
- To prepare common study programmes with foreign higher education institutions regarding joint degrees, double degrees, multilateral degrees
- To intensify activities in the area of the mutual mobility of students, educators and administrative staff
- To get foreign students regularly enrolled in their studies with Trnava University as their permanent university



- To support the guesting of professors from abroad
- To provide accessible information in English on the website of the university
- To strengthen infrastructure so that home and foreign students could fully benefit from internationalisation
- Introducing virtual mobility as a new form of education for students and academics during periods when travel is difficult, so that they can continue to benefit from internationalization in the form of a new educational paradigm in the form of e-learning and distance learning
- To intensify cooperation between foreign affairs departments with study departments and the marketing department in order to approach and attract the best students
- To intensify market research in selected domains.

Tools:

- Enhancing the quality of the implementation of projects Erasmus + KA103 and Erasmus + KA107 aimed at mobility of students, educators and administrative staff
- Integrating the university into schemes supporting exchanges of students, educators and researchers by means of the Erasmus + programme, by means of decentralised and centralised programmes: Strategic partnerships, Common master-degree study programmes, Projects aimed at capacity building, Knowledge alliances, European universities
- Using other international mobility schemes
- Creating conditions for the admission of a greater number of foreign students (teaching in English, an adequate information environment in English, accommodation facilities)
- Promoting studies at Trnava University in Trnava abroad
- Regular meetings of the vice-rector for public relations with representatives of particular faculties, with the aim of eliminating possible barriers and intensifying the plan of internationalisation.

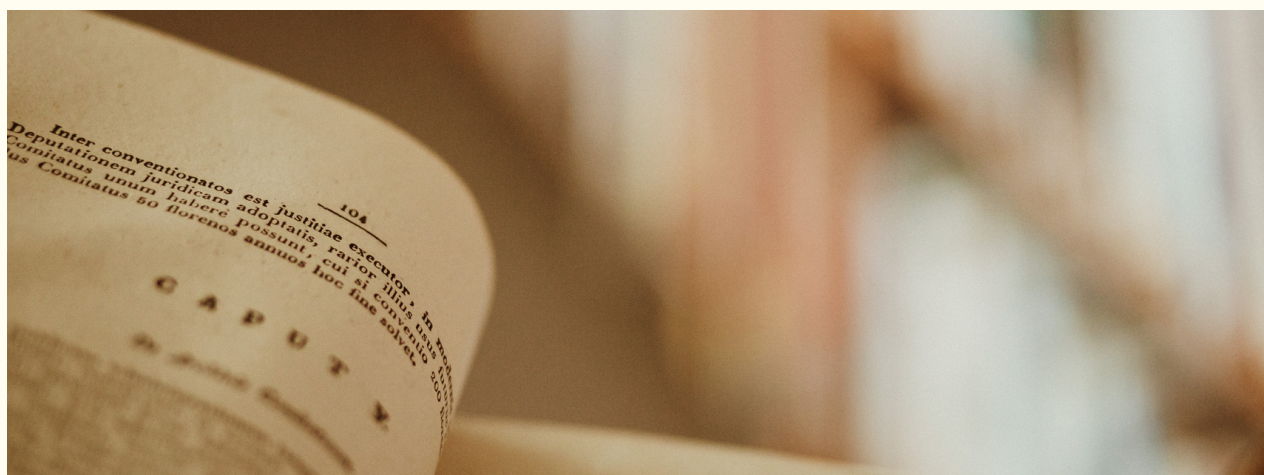


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Indicators

- The ratio of foreign students at Trnava University to the total number of students
- The number of study programmes with international accreditation
- The ratio of TU students attending part of their studies abroad.



Aim 2: Internationalisation in the Domains of Research, Development and creative Activities

- To increase the significance and accessibility of the achievements of scientific research and creative activities in the international environment mainly by publishing articles in reputable and highly cited international scientific journals evidenced in world citation databases, through cooperation with foreign partners
- To increase the participation of Trnava University in the projects of international scientific-technical cooperation
- To intensify open science on the grounds of the university – and open access to publications, data and cooperation, research materials, methods, software and other sources of information
- To increase the level of satisfaction and motivation of scientifically and technically creative staff of Trnava University by changing internal cultures of the institution and working environment comparable with top-ranking international workplaces.



Tools:

- Supporting the implementation of research, developmental and artistic activities in all the areas of university at an internationally acceptable level
- Solving global challenges
- Presenting and communicating our excellent international outputs
- Providing Trnava University experts with participation in the areas of research and development in international scientific centres, international teams, international projects and international institutions

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- Qualification growth of scientific and scientific-pedagogical staff (criteria for qualification and inauguration, scientific qualification levels, i.e. successful completion of doctoral studies) conditioned by publishing outputs in reputable journals monitored in reputable databases
- Circulating the best outputs in foreign scientific communities.



Indicators:

- The number of publications in scientific journals registered in the world scientific citation databases
- A gradual increase of cited publications as well as citations of scientists from Trnava University in the databases such as Highly Cited Researchers WOS; Current Contents Connect
- Project success rates (Finances received for home research projects, the number of H2020 projects, Finances received for international research projects and Finances received for other international projects from abroad)
- Regular analysis and evaluation of the development of indicators of quality of science and environment at university, their comparison with other universities, particularly outside Slovakia
- Policy of open science at the university.



Self-assessment

In cooperation with other vice-rectors responsible for varied areas, we plan to elaborate a self-assessment report, which will include student and teacher feedback, and we will be active in the process of comparing ourselves with selected, similarly-oriented foreign institutions.

Conclusion

The plan of internationalisation of Trnava University is reasonably designed in a broader concept as it affects broad areas of entire university life and contains a fundamental element of creative self-reflection, which might be appropriately adjusted, taking into account achieved experiences. Becoming an excellent educational institution in the globalised world will be possible only due to the active engagement of all the people working at university.



CONTACTS

TRNAVSKÁ UNIVERZITA V TRNAVE
HORNOPOTOČNÁ 23, 918 43 TRNAVA
ERASMUS CODE: SK TRNAVA01
OID CODE: E10208868
PIC CODE: 994330026

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

VICE-RECTOR FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

PROF. THLIC. MILOŠ LICHNER, D.TH.
EMAIL: MILOS.LICHNER@TRUNI.SK
PHONE: +421 33/59 39 214

ERASMUS COORDINATOR (OUTGOING STUDENTS, TEACHER MOBILITY, BILATERAL CONTRACTS)

ING. MARTA SEČKÁROVÁ
EMAIL: MARTA.SECKAROVA@TRUNI.SK
PHONE: +421 33/59 39 207

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, INCOMING ERASMUS STUDENTS

ING. EVA FILIPOVÁ
EMAIL: EVA.FILIPOVA@TRUNI.SK
PHONE: +421 33/59 39 207

GRAPHICAL PROCESSING AND PHOTOGRAPHS

MARKETING AND PR DEPARTMENT

MGR. MATÚŠ DEMKO, PHD.
MGR. BARBORA LIKAVSKÁ
EMAIL: PR@TRUNI.SK

LANGUAGE EDITING

RNDR. MGR. ANDREA NOVOMESKÁ, PHD.

