

# The University's Strategy on Internationalisation

adopted at the meeting of the Senate that took place on February 13th, 2013

In order to overcome global challenges, interdisciplinary research within national and international cooperations is a necessity. Dwindling raw material and energy resources, demographic change, and migratory flows are among these challenges, just as is the problem of poverty and that of securing access to food and water.

The University of Göttingen is aware of its societal responsibility in the face of these challenges and regards its internationalisation strategy as a major factor in its endeavours to do justice to these tasks and claims. The most important goals of this strategy are to prepare students for their future tasks in a globalised world and to give researchers the possibility of working together with international colleagues to develop solutions to the global challenges.

The conceptual basis of Göttingen University's internationalisation strategy is to perceive cultural diversity as a resource, the use of which constitutes an essential added value for research and teaching. The University of Göttingen sees this internationalisation process as the logical further development of its traditional international profile. As an institution of higher education open to the world, it has a distinctive 'welcome culture' that is being further developed in close cooperation with the city of Göttingen, in specific measures such as a 'town office' at the University.

## Status Quo 2012

Building on individual measures and cooperations already in existence, in 2007 the University embarked on a strategic process of internationalisation with its Institutional Strategy submitted in the Excellence Initiative. Its most important goal was to recruit outstanding scientists and scholars from throughout the world. The results of the 2010 German Rectors' Conference audit formed the basis for the measure 'Internationalisation 2012', which is designed to firmly embed internationally oriented thinking and acting in all areas of research, fostering young academics, teaching, and university administration.

In **regional** terms, in Europe the University is closely associated with its partners in the Coimbra Group and maintains intensive research and teaching cooperations with its U4 partners – Gent, Groningen and Uppsala. Cooperations in the Asian region benefit from the work of the Liaison Offices in China and India, with the 'Centre for Modern Indian Studies' (CeMIS) and the 'Centre for Modern East Asian Studies' (CeMEAS) providing support in respect to content. The University's manifold international collaborations in research and teaching are presented on the University website (<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/60545.html>).

In the area of **research**, the Göttingen Research Campus, an active and efficient association uniting the University with the local non-university research institutions, is an ideal environment for international guests, who experience the interdisciplinary working atmosphere in Göttingen, the 'Göttingen Spirit', as a creative situation of cooperation.

In the area of **fostering young academics**, the University places particular emphasis on supporting mobility among up-and-coming generations of scientists and scholars. The three large campus-wide Graduate Schools and the international Max Planck Research Schools create an excellent academic environment for graduates from Germany and abroad. Courses and activities geared specifically to foreign graduates render the Göttingen Research Campus particularly attractive.

In the area of **studying and teaching**, the first international Bachelor's degree programmes have been set up and numerous Master's programmes extended; attractive summer schools are also on offer. In the 2012/13 Winter Semester international programmes make up one third of the Master's degree programmes (33.8%).

On both internal and external levels, **science management** at the University has done justice to the increasing internationalisation, and the challenges that this brings, in many and varied ways. In acknowledgement of the differing subject cultures, internationalisation officers have been appointed at the Faculties as contact persons with a coordinating function. The Göttingen International staff unit has been expanded to become an important instrument of the internationalisation process. With the Welcome Centre and the Administration Service Point, an excellent range of support services for international guests has been made available, in the framework of which the University presents itself internally and externally as a host research institution providing high-quality service. In the area of administration, a notable feature of the ongoing development is the marked rise in international competence on the part of the administrative staff. The University also provides numerous documents and much information material of relevance in this context in the English language.

## **Strategy 2020**

Göttingen University's internationalisation strategy builds on the concepts and structures established over the past five years and develops them further. In particular, cooperation with the University's local partners in respect to hosting international guests is being intensified with a view to making the Göttingen Research Campus yet more attractive as a location for international encounters.

Besides its European partnerships in the Coimbra Network, Göttingen University is cultivating further **regional focus areas** in Asia. In China and India the University continues to maintain Liaison Offices, while relations with Japan and Indonesia are being intensified. The USA, Canada and South America are additional areas of emphasis. Strategic partnerships cover not only exchange programmes and research collaborations but also involve the University directorate, and there is exchange of insights on issues of leadership culture and sustainability.

In **research**, science-driven individual cooperations are explicitly supported. To this end, the University of Göttingen is strengthening its advisory services concerning possibilities for international funding, and by way of the Göttingen International staff unit is professionalizing administrative support. In this process, international collaborative projects and the development of joint research infrastructure with strategic partners are of particularly high significance.

The further expansion of the University's international contacts is intended to bring particular benefits in the area of **fostering young academics**. The University explicitly supports mobility among the young scientists and scholars. In the recruitment of academic staff, potential foreign applicants are approached specifically. The high quality of the services offered by the Welcome Centre will have a decisive impact on the success of these recruitment strategies.

In the domain of **teaching and studying**, the Georgia Augusta is undertaking a demand-oriented extension of the range of its international Bachelor degree programmes, and establishing multi-lingual curricula. The consolidation of flexible study programme structures and improvement of framework conditions for studying abroad are contributing to a considerable increase in the mobility of our students and optimising their career opportunities. The University is intensifying its activities aimed at recruiting qualified international students and broadening the spectrum of international short-term programmes and summer schools. A further expansion of e-learning and blended-learning courses geared to achieving virtual mobility is explicitly planned. Furthermore, the intention is to attract international (guest) scientists and scholars into University teaching to an increasing extent. The Career Service will in future be advising German and international students in regard to international careers and career possibilities on the German labour market.

In an intensive exchange with partner universities and the Leadership Programme of the U4 group, the University's **science management** is upgrading its international competence and broadening its experience. Close partnerships between the directorates of universities offer important discussion platforms for consideration of the University's further strategic development. In addition, with the intention of assuming responsibility in a global scientific system, the directorate of the University of Göttingen will contribute actively to the international dialogue on the politics of research and participate in the shaping of a European higher education and research area.

The international activities of the University and the Research Campus are accompanied by targeted **marketing** activities and supported by long-term cultivation of contacts with, and involvement of, international alumni.

Göttingen University's strategy on internationalisation is aimed at achieving the goals defined in research and teaching, and thereby to securing the international recognition of the University of Göttingen in the long term.