

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (UCB)

Internationalization Strategy 2016-2021 (summary)

The Office of Research and Projects

1. Mission and Vision of the University College of Business (UCB)

UCB's *Office of Research and Projects* (ORP) was established in recognition with UCB's mission "as a free enterprise initiative, based on a philosophy of quality education, with modern standards and with intent to contribute with seriousness and dignity in the education of new generations and to contribute to the growth of prosperity, welfare and development in our country".

The transformations brought about by globalizing capitalism, the information revolution, technological innovations, and increasingly multicultural societies call for faculty and staff creativity – localized and globalized – to prepare students for the challenges of a globalized job market. UCB sees internationalization as a central component of its overall strategic development and mission, and the ORP was established to service these internationalization requirements.

2. International Educational Cooperation and Networking Strategies

UCB is committed to internationalization and accordingly, it aims to establish and maintain national and regional recognition in Albania and the region. It seeks actively to collaborate with the best EU and non-EU educational institutions in order to establish an internationally recognized curriculum and learn from the best practices of leading universities. Internationalization strengthens the reputation of UCB, therefore increasing international presence and creating support structures with the help of leading institutions abroad is of utmost importance.

GOALS:

- Increase the number of international partnerships with leading universities.
- Cooperate with Embassies and other international governmental organizations in Tirana in order to build relationships in international education.
- Create synergies for collaborative projects with universities abroad for joint research funding opportunities.
- Maintain relationships with the National Erasmus + Office in Tirana and the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (Albania) in order to receive information on grant opportunities and other possible cooperation opportunities.

3. International Student and Staff Mobility Objectives

One of the most important objectives of UCB is to create an international educational environment by offering students and staff international academic experience. UCB strives to enhance its capacities for mobility opportunities. The ORP will continue to create structures to increase mobility, through new exchange agreements with regional, EU and world partners, which will facilitate short-term programs for mutual exchange.

GOALS:

- Increase number of universities that are partner countries within the framework of the Erasmus+ Program (K107).
- Increase number of bilateral agreements (MoUs) with universities encouraging student and staff mobility possibilities.

3.1. Student Mobility Objectives:

The UCB ORP aims to promote international programs, projects and activities in order to attract students' interest and participation. The ORP's main objective is to assist students in developing an international and multicultural profile and preparing graduates to perform in an increasingly multicultural world and job market by gaining significant academic experience at partner institutions abroad.

GOALS:

- Create structures and improving conditions to attract students from the region, EU member states and beyond for short or long-term stays at UCB.
- Promote recognition of the periods of studies abroad as an added value in building professional career paths.

3.2. Teaching and Research Staff Mobility Objectives:

Internationalization requires well-trained personnel in order to reach international teaching and research standards. UCB strives to promote international teaching and research staff exchanges programs as well as other specialized programs in order to gain intercultural competences. The RPO has established criteria for selection of outgoing and incoming teaching and research staff, through the creation of a Selection Committee (composed of Deans of respective Faculties and the IRPO Officer) that evaluates applicants primarily on their teaching and research proposals.

GOALS:

- Encourage academic staff to develop teaching skills as well as deliver knowledge at international standards.
- Encourage academic staff and young researchers to participate in teaching and training motilities in order to gain international academic experience.
- Encourage young researchers to develop as international researchers by applying to programs like Horizon 2020 and other research opportunities.
- Assist academic staff and researchers in global networking and developing long-term strategic research collaborations with partner institutions.

3.3. Administrative Staff Development:

Internationalization requires the appropriate support structures and staff personnel in order to reach international standards of education.

GOALS:

- Encourage administrative staff to participate in international trainings to learn good administration procedures and best practices.

4. International Campus and Regional Impact

UCB`s aim is to create an international campus committed to multicultural values. This can also be achieved by increasing the number of international academic staff. Through this Internationalization Strategy UCB will work to achieve its mission of educating and preparing the future leaders of Albania.