

International Strategy



University College
South Denmark

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International Strategy for University College South Denmark

UC SYD's International Strategy has been written within the framework of a range of documents:

- UC SYD's Strategy 2025
- Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-2027
- Erasmus Policy Statement
- Code of Conduct

The purpose of the International Strategy is to:

- Contribute to delivering UC SYD's vision by establishing an international perspective for students and staff
- Form the basis for working towards increased internationalisation at UC SYD
- Create direction and priorities

Internationalisation at UC SYD should underpin the ambition of the institution's Strategy 2025 to ensure a high level of professionalism and relevance within the available academic courses and research carried out. Internationalisation should also contribute to making UC SYD a visionary environment for education and an attractive place of employment.

UC SYD's International Strategy contains an overarching vision for international activities:

UC SYD makes it possible for everyone to:

- Gain international insight and outlook
- Be part of a co-creative and dynamic international environment
- Develop an international professional identity
- Take part in international research and development

The strategy contains four overarching measures for international activity at UC SYD which are implemented at faculty level depending on priorities and circumstances particular to each study programme.

The measures are to:

- Provide the best possible opportunities for mobility of students and staff
- Create visible international learning environments at campus
- Underpin and support UC SYD's participation in international projects
- Ensure that incoming and outgoing students are satisfied with their mobility experience

To comply with the above measures, UC SYD works with the actions mentioned below:

Mobility

UC SYD aims to motivate students to incorporate a stay abroad into their degree to create an international outlook and develop intercultural competences. Mobility 'packages' should be developed and kept updated with the purpose of working strategically with selected partners and make it easy for all students to undertake a stay abroad.

We also aim to create a good framework for staff mobility which contribute to developing personal and professional competences and thereby strengthens UC SYD's knowledge base.

When UC SYD sends students abroad for training or study purposes, they should be prepared in advance for meeting a culture which is alien to them and for tackling situations on their own. Being properly prepared contribute to a successful stay on a personal as well as on a professional level. When the students return to UC SYD, their lecturers should ensure that their newfound experiences are shared back into the institution by making the students systematically share their experiences with their fellow students.

Internationalisation at Home

UC SYD should be open to the world so that it is obvious to students and staff that they are at an educational institution and in a workplace with an international outlook. This can be done in various ways, such as:

- Establishing 'windows' for mobility within the curricula
- Giving students the opportunity to follow UC SYD's programmes taught in English
- Making use of international literature
- Inviting guest lecturers from abroad
- Recruiting international students
- Hosting and arranging international events and allowing own staff and students to participate
- Involving staff and students in international projects
- Ensuring that international experience of own students is fed back into the institution

Research and Development

Participating in international projects is an essential element in UC SYD's continuing development and sharing of knowledge within prioritised areas of competence. Strong partnerships and close collaboration with relevant international educational and research institutions should in this way contribute to improving the quality and relevance of UC SYD's research and development activities.

Cooperating partners

UC SYD focuses on quality and relevance in international networks.

Each study programme develops mobility packages around a series of prioritised partnerships and can also include activities related to research and development. We prioritise European partners, among other things due to the availability of grants, although this does not preclude partnerships with overseas institutions where relevant.

UC SYD aims to ensure that mobility packages are well balanced and exchange agreements with partner institutions are subject to annual review according to set criteria to ensure they are continually quality assured.

Cross-border cooperation

UC SYD should make the best of our geographical location within the border region to continually develop Danish-German cooperation. Mobility and working together on projects should in this way contribute to creating a greater understanding of each other's culture and language in the region, and joint ventures between educational institutions, local authorities and businesses should strengthen the regional agenda for growth with the development and retention of young talents in the regions of South Denmark and North Germany.

In line with the Danish government's strategy for strengthening foreign languages in the educational system, UC SYD should prioritise the German language. UC SYD aims to continue initiating activities in cooperation with relevant parties from Denmark and Germany.