

European Policy Statement

Internationality is one of the founding principles of Constructor University Bremen (Constructor University Bremen was founded in 2001 as *International* University Bremen). International students constitute approximately 75% of the regularly enrolled student body; English is used as the 'lingua franca' inside as well as outside of the classroom. Constructor University thus serves as a 'stay abroad' for the majority of its enrolled students.

This aspect, in addition to the fact that the overall student body is relatively small, has a direct effect on student mobility. The numbers of incoming and outgoing students and staff mobility are limited and they will most likely remain at a moderate level in the future.

As a small and private institution with students who are mainly already abroad while studying in Bremen, Constructor University aims at "quality" rather than "quantity". The international strategy is defined in close consultation with the President and the Study Abroad Committee. It takes into account:

- Student demand: which are the most popular destinations for Constructor Students to study abroad?
- Faculty demand: which are the institutions Constructor faculty have research cooperation with and would a student exchange enhance this cooperation?
- Academic coherence: which institutions offer high profile programs which match or complement Constructor programs? These partnerships can then be used strategically for student marketing for these specific programs.
- Balanced exchange: is it likely that the number of incoming and outgoing students will be balanced?

Objectives and Target Groups

Student and staff mobility is at the heart of the international profile of Constructor University. Based on the above mentioned principles Constructor University is dedicated to provide support and resources by participating in mobility activities and by establishing partnerships with international higher education institutions to give as many students as possible the opportunity to experience a 'further stay abroad'. The experiences gained at a partner university and/or an international research institute/ company provide a rich and irreplaceable benefit to the individual as well as to the institution as such.

Furthermore, student and staff mobility as well as international cooperation enhance the university's academic principle of transdisciplinarity. Gaining and/or providing different perspectives is the solid basis for a transdisciplinary approach of teaching and learning adopted by Constructor University. Internationalisation is thus an integral part of the university's academic concept.

The establishment of double and joint degrees enriches the academic offer of the university and allows for a close cooperation in teaching and in research. Constructor University has already established a sound number of joint degrees. However, being a small, private and international higher education institution, Constructor University reaches limits as to how many joint degree programs are feasible.

Constructor University's International Office will continue to strategically build the international profile of Constructor University by:

- Continuing to support student, staff and faculty mobility and strengthening current partnerships;
- Facilitating successful integration of visiting professors into the academic life of the university;
- Developing strategic goals in acquiring new partners for international exchange;
- Evaluating institutional requests for partnership.