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National Needs, Global Standards



INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2027


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INTRODUCTION

I. CURRENT SITUATION, IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS AND GENERAL TRENDS

International experience is a highly valued graduate attribute for researchers/teachers and students. In general, the internationalisation strategies will be most crucial factor in securing/maintaining world class status of the institution. Therefore, 'internationalisation' acquires paramount significance in the policies of University of Hyderabad (UoH). Internationalisation is, operationally, achieved through multiple ways. Internationalisation at UoH is planned through:

- Strategic University linkages and partnerships
- Student Mobility
- International Students Placements
- Researchers/ Teachers/Academic Administrators Mobility
- Joint/Dual Degree Programmes (proposed)
- Collaborative Research

In terms of student mobility, 73 students from 18 countries are currently on campus; in addition, 1560 applications were received from Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) in 2021; of which 28 were admitted. Similarly, a limited number of students from UoH are travelling abroad to receive exposure from different universities. The Covid pandemic has affected the mobility of teachers and students (from UoH and abroad) in a significant fashion. Of late, there are positive signs of recovery in the sphere of mobility. Office of International Affairs (OIA) is coordinating international student mobility to UoH by admitting students to regular and short-term programmes conducted by the University. Study in India Programme (SIP), UoH is a layer within OIA that facilitates short term programmes for foreign students. OIA also facilitates the mobility of students and faculty and academic administrators by providing information and details from other foreign universities and consortia (as and when they are shared).

- *Internationalisation in terms of academic and staff mobility*

Faculty from UoH take up research and teaching assignments in different universities and research institutes through various modes such as fellowships/scholarships, guest professorships, guest scientists and so on. For instance, faculty members of UoH have travelled widely to universities in the United States (US) under various Fulbright Programmes. Similarly, under Namaste/ERASMUS/DAAD as well as various fellowships from Japan, France, and Canada and so on, faculty members from UoH have been taking positions abroad as Visiting Professors/Guest professorships, Guest Scientists and so on. Academic Administrators are also encouraged to get international exposure as and when opportunities arise. For instance, two top academic administrators attended academic

leadership/administrative workshop in Freie University Berlin (FUB) in 2022. In 2023, two other staff members will be attending the workshop.

- *Internationalisation in terms of Educational Programs*

In order to have a coherent and more effective administrative functional unit, both the International offices were merged to form a single unit called Office of Global Education in 2021 and was subsequently renamed as Office of International Affairs (OIA) as per UGC (the apex higher education regulator in India) guidelines. UoH offers a wide variety of programmes for students (Indian and foreign nationals) – like **undergraduate, Integrated Masters, Postgraduate, Doctoral Studies** and so on, in different disciplines such as Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, Management, Engineering Studies, Arts & Communication, and Medical Sciences. Apart from these, University offers customised courses (four weeks to a semester length) to foreign students and credits obtained from such courses are transferred to their parent universities. Study in India program (SIP), which has recently been merged with Office of International Affairs oversaw the delivery of such customized courses. Over the years, SIP has had agreements with several universities and consortia based in North America and the Nordic countries to bring students for semester-length, short-term, and specialised programmes.

- Internationalisation in terms of research, projects and events

University of Hyderabad (UoH), a premier research and teaching university in the country has been engaging with international research institutions through collaborative research and teaching programmes. Several collaborative research activities such as those under the umbrella of Institution of Eminence (IoE) are being undertaken at the University by involving foreign scholars and scientists. In addition, UoH researchers are also engaged in projects granted by DAAD, ERASMUS+, HARMONY, and so on. **Currently, UoH has 15 functional MoUs with foreign universities/institutions with specific, ongoing activities.** A few of our faculty members are awarded Chair Professorship in UoH by foreign educational agencies/multilateral organizations (for instance, UNESCO Chair Professorships).

SWOT analysis of Internationalisation

Strengths	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
A premier public university in the country with Institution of Eminence status (a special status granted by Government of India with funding of Rs 1000 Crore- around \$ 121 Million)	Cutting-edge facilities for Internationalisation have to be improved	Healthy Macro-economic indicators in the country provide Indian universities such as UoH the possibility to attract more foreign faculty and students and administrators	Competition from private universities
Study in India Program (SIP)*, a pioneering initiative by UoH to provide an opportunity for foreign students (primarily undergraduate) to live and study for a semester at UoH	Declining public funding to Indian universities (including UoH)	Increased interest in the foreign students/faculty/ universities to develop 'India competence' provide new avenues for Internationalisation	Rising cost of study abroad experiences and depreciating funding in higher education
State of the Art Infrastructure	Need more courses and programmes that attract foreign students	Affordable and quality education make Indian Universities attractive for students from the Global South regions	Severe competition emerging from other Emerging economies like China, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and so on.
Highly Qualified faculty members (with foreign Ph.Ds, Post Docs or with international fellowships; guest professorships)	Needs more flexible frameworks of regulations	National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 offers new avenues for internationalisation	Increasing preferences of Indian middle class for private universities
Proven publication track records of the faculty with other scientific achievements (like 70 +National Collaborations)	Needs better branding of the institution	Institute of Eminence (IoE) Status, granted to UoH by Govt of India (GoI) provides an advantage to collaborate with foreign universities in the areas of developing Joint/ Dual Degrees	Prospective entry of offshore campuses of foreign universities in India (a grey area for Indian academia)

*SIP allows students to transfer credits earned at the University of Hyderabad back to their home institutions. SIP started as a small experimental initiative in the summer of 1998, with 8 students from the University of Pittsburgh, USA. Since then, this flagship venture has grown and has become recognized as the most successful Study Abroad program in the country. The University Grants Commission of India has consistently regarded it as a model program, and has been encouraging several other universities in India to emulate its approach. In 2014, the Institute of International Education Network (IIE Network) awarded the prestigious Andrew Heiskell Award to University of Hyderabad, Study in India Program, for internationalizing the campus, advancing curriculum development and fostering international opportunities and creatively integrating international students into university life (For more details [Study-in-India-Program-UoH-brief-note.pdf \(uohyd.ac.in\)](#)).

II. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Prominent objectives of Internationalisation at UoH under New Education Policy (NEP) include:

- Foreign Nationals - Ph.D. and Masters Students admission
- Develop New MoUs
- Joint Ph.D. Programmes
- Enhance Research and Teaching Collaborations
- International Projects
- Establish Foreign Campuses in UoH

Other specific objectives include:

- Dual Degrees
- Renew Faculty Development Programmes
- Short-term SIP courses
- Offer subject clusters

III. MEASURES / ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

The current situation calls for an **integrated approach to internationalisation that includes different dimensions under a single umbrella: facilitate faculty teaching and research exchanges; enable collaborative international research projects through MoUs; promote short-term student programmes through SIP; and attract, more actively, international students to pursue full degree programmes on our campus.** Administratively, with the shrinking of funding for the SIP, instead of running the Office of International Affairs and SIP as two distinct entities, these have been merged to create unitary institutional structure for internationalisation.

The expected objectives include:

- To make concerted efforts to increase the intake of South Asian students, not only from Nepal and Afghanistan, but also from Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and the Maldives (South Asia region).
- To focus on Anglophone regions from Africa, the Caribbean, and Oceania region (specific efforts have to be taken to publicize the programmes at UoH through India's diplomatic missions).
- Increase the number of OCI admissions into our courses.
- TOEFL/IELTS should be mandatory only if the candidate has not passed the qualifying examination in English medium.
- The foreign student admissions always should be treated as supernumerary (15%) and the UoH has the right to increase this percentage beyond 15% if there are potential students for admission.
- Taking advantage of our E-Learning Centre, we should actively explore the option of offering online courses to international students.
- UoH should continue the existing practice of providing affiliation for foreign students/faculty members to take up specific projects in the University.
- International research and teaching collaborations between our faculty and those in foreign universities is one major mandates under Internationalisation. This would provide international students the opportunity to experience an Indian academic environment in the classroom and vice versa.
- Offer interdisciplinary perspectives on history, politics, development, and society in contemporary India
- Integrating international students
 - i. Through orientation and cultural immersion
 - ii. On the football field
 - iii. Into Host Families
 - iv. Through continued academic networking

IV. ESTIMATING THE IMPACT AND FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The University is undergoing policy shift following the introduction of New Education Policy and modalities for funding and other related aspects are currently being debated. However, Office of international Affairs (OIA) is the designated unit for foreign students' admissions and logistics management and is run with maintenance grant given by the University. In the pre-Covid period, Study in India programme (SIP) used to generate substantial revenue out of fee and other avenues and became a **self-sustaining unit** within UoH. Currently, in the realm of Internationalisation, university is rebuilding its institutional structures and processes to return the campus to pre-pandemic ambience.

V. EXPECTED RESULTS AND PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Increased number of foreign students pursuing the full-time and short-term programmes

- Increased number of research Collaborations
- Increased number of faculty, students, and administrators' mobility (both virtual and physical)
- Joint Degree/Dual Degree programmes
- MoUs with top ranking or similar level universities/research institution from abroad
- These are envisaged to enhance the visibility and the reputation of the University (within five to ten years)

VI. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGY

University of Hyderabad (UoH) implements various programmes with Internationalisation component through its various academic units (Schools, Departments and Centres). Administratively, office of International Affairs (OIS) looks after the admission of the international students. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Committee, which is headed by a Senior Professor, along with around ten faculty members from different disciplines finalize the agreements/collaborations with foreign Universities and research institutions before it is formalized by the top leadership of University (Vice Chancellor (the President) and the Executive Council - highest Decision-making body of the university) and the Academic Council (the top Academic Advisory Committee of the University). The research at UoH is also regulated through Institutional Ethics Committee. Office of International Affairs (OIA) is affiliated with SPARC (Ministry of Education), EDCIL (GoI), Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Study in India-SII-(GoI), Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI), the United States-India Educational Foundation, (USIEF), Namaste+ (with Gottingen University), DAAD (Frei University, Berlin), and HARMONY to cite a few examples.

VII. RISKS IN THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

There are wide varieties of risks involved in the implementation processes. Global health crisis following multiple pandemics have slowed down the mobility of students and faculty members. Similarly, geo-political tensions at the global level have affected the economies of several countries which have had a huge impact on student fellowships/grants/scholarship, a key factor that can slow down the Internationalisation efforts of various universities like UoH.

ANNEXURE I: IaH action plan (attached as a separate document)