



Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol
Zukunft mit Bildung

PHT Internationalisation strategy

The internationalisation strategy of the University College of Teacher Education Tyrol (PHT) is based on the National Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy for Higher Education 2020-2030 (HMIS 2030) of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and fits seamlessly into the current European discourse, which emphasises a comprehensive approach to internationalisation and the teaching of international and intercultural skills. It is in line with the political strategy documents of the European Union and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), such as the Paris Communiqué of 2018, which underlines the social responsibility of universities.

The connection of the European Higher Education and Research Area, the synergies between EU education and research programmes and the associated promotion of a dense network of partner universities in Europe and beyond are fundamental to the international strategic orientation.

Our strategy supports the linking of the European Higher Education and Research Area as well as mobility and cooperation between EU education and research programmes. The promotion of a dense network of partner universities in Europe and beyond are key elements of our strategy.

The strategic orientation of the PHT contributes to improving the framework conditions for mobility and cooperation with international institutions, simultaneously contributing to innovation in society. The strategy supports us in achieving the Austrian national impact goals in the area of science and research.

Vision

"Bridging worlds, expanding horizons"

Our vision is to broaden horizons and build bridges to other worlds. We achieve this by preparing our students and staff to adopt global perspectives, actively embrace diversity, utilise diplomatic skills and promote a peaceful attitude towards other cultures and nations.

Mission

Our mission as PHT is to play a pioneering role in the international education landscape. We want to prepare future educators to act professionally and responsibly in a multicultural world through a theoretically sound and practically applicable education. As a hub for international education and research cooperation, we drive innovation in teacher education. We achieve this by maintaining strategic partnerships with leading educational institutions worldwide, by offering globally connected educational programmes and by promoting stays abroad and international research projects.

The PHT sees itself as an open-minded educational campus that encourages a dynamic and inclusive university community in which students, academic and administrative staff from different cultures work together and embrace cultural diversity, as well as cultivates a welcoming culture for international students and lecturers.



GOALS

1. Promotion of mobility

A central goal of the PHT is to enable cross-border mobilities for all university members. We see mobilities as a core element of internationalisation, as it is particularly effective in promoting the acquisition of international and intercultural skills. We therefore strive to continuously develop participation in structured mobility programmes such as Erasmus+ in line with the overall university strategy and to expand mobility within the framework of existing university collaborations. This applies equally to students, academic, administrative and teaching staff at the affiliated schools. Particular attention is paid to the greater involvement of underrepresented student groups (e.g. students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds or with specific requirements). In addition to traditional semesters abroad, the range of non-traditional, shorter mobility formats such as internships, excursions, language courses, blended intensive programmes and summer schools should be expanded in order to make mobility experiences accessible to all groups. In addition to the physical mobility options, we push digital formats to reach all those who cannot be mobile for various reasons. This makes it possible to overcome national borders in virtual space as well as intercultural and international skills are acquired.

2. Internationalisation of the curricula

In this area, various measures represent essential components of comprehensive internationalisation efforts and contribute to an international environment at the PHT. These include the international orientation of our curricula towards global and intercultural specialisations and the integration of foreign languages into teaching. In addition, our cooperation with partner universities enables us to develop new study programmes. In this way, we guarantee our students from Austria and abroad an attractive range of study programmes.

3. Strengthening international research cooperation

The numerous research collaborations with international academic institutions and research organisations are an important driver of high-quality research performance at our university. Innovative educational research is driven forward with the active participation of our researchers and with the involvement of young academics by striving to increase internationally orientated third-party funded projects. On the one hand, this promotes the international transfer of science and discourse, while on the other hand, the latest scientific findings are applied directly in educational practice. Our aim is to increase the sustainability of research partnerships and systematically expand the network to other geographical regions, both within and outside the EU.

4. Promotion of intercultural competence development and multilingualism

In order to strengthen our ability to act internationally, we promote the intercultural skills of our students and employees. We do this by specifically anchoring them in our curricula and by organising intercultural exchange projects that deepen understanding and sensitivity for other cultures. We also attach particular importance to promoting multilingualism. In this context, students and staff are enabled to communicate confidently in different languages and broaden their professional and personal perspectives as part of language learning opportunities for the university community and exchange programmes.



5. Development and maintenance of international partnerships

We actively support international networking, which contributes to the professional and personal development and attractiveness of the PHT. To strengthen its international orientation, the PHT cooperates with partner institutions in other countries within the framework of joint programmes. These cooperations enable the development and implementation of joint curricula. Our aim is to participate in the "European Universities" initiative of Erasmus+, which strives for close cooperation between universities from different countries within the framework of an inter-university campus. The PHT is endeavouring to expand cooperation with universities in the Global South and other emerging countries, which goes hand in hand with the integration of sustainability goals.

6. Sustainable embedding of internationalisation

A key step towards implementing a sustainable and institutionally anchored culture of internationalisation is the continuous development of our internationalisation strategy. This strategy is based on stable structures, appropriate resources and professional quality management in order to achieve our long-term goals. These include the Competence Center of Internationalisation, the International Office, internationalisation representatives at the teaching and research departments and affiliated schools. As part of our internationalisation strategy, we place a particular focus on targeted personnel development measures and evidence-based impact analyses in order to constantly expand internationalisation and continuously increase its effectiveness. We attach particular importance to involving all members of the university in order to ensure a common understanding and successful implementation.