

INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS

PRINCIPLES

Internationality and internationalization principles of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Bonn

The Faculty of Arts of the University of Bonn views internationality in its research, teaching and study offerings as a defining element of the Faculty's identity. The research conducted by the faculty members is highly international in nature, and extensive dialogue is engaged in with the respective international communities. Many publications are in English, reflecting the fact that the Faculty's research plays an important role in global academic discourse.

Internationality at the Faculty of Arts is not however solely expressed through the communication of research findings in English, for a large number of subjects are taught involving the study of foreign languages and cultures outside the Anglophone linguistic and cultural sphere, such as Egyptology, Anthropology of the Americas, Islamic Studies, Japanese Studies, Celtic Studies, Eastern European History, Romance Studies and Chinese Studies. Research and teaching are also conducted in subjects related to Germanic languages, history and culture. Internationality at the Faculty of Arts thus has many facets, and internationalization-related needs differ accordingly among the individual subject areas, institutes and degree programs.

The Dean's Office of the Faculty of Arts has stated its commitment to building upon the success had thus far in promoting internationality so as to realize an ever-increasing degree of internationalization on a sustained basis. In this context, internationalization is understood as a process that involves all members and units of the Faculty. Measures promoting internationalization at the Faculty are to be anchored within structures to ensure their lasting effect. The Dean's Office cooperates closely with the Vice Rector for International Affairs and the International Office to support the University's internationalization efforts. For example, the Vice Dean for Research and International Affairs represents the Faculty in the Rectorate's project group on International Affairs, and is participating in the ongoing University Internationalization re-audit conducted by the German Rector's Conference (HRK).

1. International academics

Status quo: the Faculty frequently welcomes academics from abroad on research visits, ranging from doctoral students to postdocs and Humboldt Prize winners. Also, an increasing number of international colleagues have been selected in appointment procedures in recent years.

Objectives: the objective is to make gains based upon the status quo. The Faculty and its institutes are to be an attractive place of work for academics from all over the world—for professorates as well as shorter research visits. The percentage of professors from other countries is to be increased as part of the mission of attracting the world's most qualified individuals, thus the recruitment and support structures for academics from abroad are to be developed accordingly.

Measures: specific measures to be taken include announcing all professorate openings in English or other subject-relevant language in international publications. Professors recruited from other countries are to enjoy a transition period in which they can conduct lectures in English.

2. Study offerings and teaching

Status quo: the Faculty already offers several international courses which are attended by international students and/or conducted in the foreign languages relevant for research and teaching for the Faculty's subjects, including international bachelor degree programs such as German-French studies and German-Italian studies. There is not a sufficient number of courses available in English however for the bachelor program. These courses are particularly important for visiting students from our international partner universities, and also perform a key function for our own students in terms of "internationalization at home".

Objectives: in recognition of their importance, the Faculty's objective is to increase the percentage of bachelor program courses offered in English.

Measures: starting in the summer semester of 2019, the Dean's Office began allocating an English-language teaching contingent for bachelor's program courses. The English-language course offering is to be further expanded however, in cooperation with the Vice Rector for International Affairs and the International Office, for example by introducing English-language modules for incoming students on "Germany in a Global Context". These will be devoted to examining issues pertinent to German and European society, politics, history and culture. The professorate to be filled and the director of the CASSIS center are to be involved in these expansion efforts.

3. Internationalized administration

Status quo: great gains have been made in internationalizing research and study offerings in recent years, although these have given rise to challenges in certain areas. These include communicating administrative procedures to international students and involving them in administrative processes and committees.

Objectives: the objectives are to strengthen the administrative framework for internationalization on a sustained basis and permanently anchor internationality within the organization both culturally and structurally, thereby making administrative procedures easier for international students and academics to navigate.

Measures: the measures to be taken to realize the objectives include (i) visits by international administrative staff (e.g. the Erasmus Staff Exchange), (ii) participation in intercultural training by administrative staff and (iii) translation of important documents into English (such as the doctoral degree regulations).



4. Location

Status quo: as a UN city where many international organizations are based, the locational advantages Bonn affords are unique within Germany, benefiting the Faculty of Arts and the University of Bonn as a whole in terms of internationalism.

Objectives: the Faculty intends to leverage its locational advantages to an even greater extent in furtherance of the internationalization process.

Measures: strengthen partnerships between the Faculty and Bonn's international organizations. With support from the Dean's Office, the Faculty is creating structures aimed at promoting internationalism and greater use of the locational advantages Bonn affords as a cosmopolitan city—such as the University's Centre Ernst Robert Curtius (CERC) and CASSIS.

5. Strategic partnerships

Status quo: the Faculty has several international partnerships in place with institutions and individual institution-internal entities. These include research-level collaborations, often largely informal, and activities under formal student and academic research exchange agreements with partner institutions.

Objectives: the objective is to further pursue and grow our strategic partnerships for research, study offerings and teaching.

Measures: the Dean's Office is involved in managing existing agreements with partner institutions and in the forging of new partnerships on the institute and university levels.

6. Public relations

Status quo: the Faculty website is the Faculty's primary public relations channel. Most of the website is still only available in German at this time, presenting a barrier for interested students and prospective visiting and permanent academic staff.

Objectives: the Faculty of Arts intends to align its public relations even more closely with international standards.

Measures: specific measures to achieve this goal include translating relevant pages of the websites of the Faculty and its institutes into English. Translations of some web pages are particularly important (concerning research, for example), and while some are already in English, the pages have to be revised and continuously updated, requiring a large amount of work.

7. Language policy

Status quo: the Faculty of Arts of the University of Bonn is committed to multilingualism. For most subjects, research activities are conducted and publications are released in English or other languages, and our students receive preparation to meet the foreign language requirements of their subjects.

Objectives: the Faculty is committed to preserving, promoting and increasing multilingualism among Faculty members and students.

Measures: the Faculty implements measures suitable for promoting multilingualism among all of its status groups, including language courses and exchange programs.

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