Strategy for internationalisation, Faculty of Health Science, 2018-2025

Internationalisation with insight and outlook
1. Introduction

Internationalisation is a strategic focus area for the health programmes at UCL to qualify and brand the education programmes in the area of health. The international strategy contributes to increase focus and strengthen our international profile and to define a joint vision and direction for international efforts.

Students, employees, researchers as well as public and private companies are a part of a globalised world with movement and collaboration across country boarders. We need to optimise our ability to operate internationally and increase our understanding of other cultures. The health education programmes must contribute to give our graduates strong professional competencies, a cultural understanding and a global outlook.

In the strategy 2020 for UCL as well as in the organisational design, the international aspect is highlighted. The education programmes must collaborate with international partners on joint degree programmes, the collaboration on education between the Nordic countries must be expanded, international study elements/mobility windows are established, the teaching staff must achieve competencies to teach in English and a higher number of students must go on exchange stays abroad. (Strategi 2020, Vejen mod 2020 University College Lillebælt, Organisationsdesign Området Sundhed)

Vision

The vision of the health programmes at UCL is to be among the preferred education programmes in Denmark, sparked by internationalisation which is visible at all levels in the education programmes.

Students are educated to act professionally in a globalised work through internationalisation, intercultural understanding and a global outlook.

The education programmes must seek out and support international research and development activities with focus on developing the education programmes and professions in an international perspective.

Purpose of the strategy on internationalisation is to:

- Implement the joint vision and direction for our development of and efforts in internationalisation in the health programmes
- Support and develop existing work with internationalisation
- Contribute with and initiate new research and development activities to ensure future growth and development of education programmes
- Ensure the quality of activities in internationalisation
- Develop and inspire new initiatives in the area of internationalisation in the health programmes.

2. Goals for internationalisation

To inspire students to go on exchange stay and participate in Internationalisation at Home (IaH) as an inherent part of their education, and to give students the optimal possibilities to give the education an international “toning”. To ensure students have the best possibilities to achieve this.

To contribute to acknowledge the competencies acquired abroad during an exchange stay in both the theoretical and the clinical part of the education.

To focus on and ensure an international environment to benefit own students.

To focus on and ensure an international environment for international students.

To ensure optimal conditions and possibilities for the students to complete both clinical and theoretical studies abroad.

To inspire staff to consider exchange stay as a part of their career planning, including participation in international development and research activities.

To offer IaH activities to international students and students at health programmes.

To contribute to develop staff competencies in relation to international activities, including English language competencies.

To contribute to staff initiating and participating in international collaborations and to be good ambassadors for internationalisation both internally in the organisation and externally.

To contribute to make UCL an attractive collaborator both nationally and internationally.

To profile the quality and international qualities of the education programmes in international media and in publications and contributions at conferences.

To conceptualise collaboration with international strategic partners.

To establish international network to qualify the international work in the education programmes.

3. Target groups

The target groups are all students in the health programmes and international students. We wish that our efforts reach as broad a group of students as possible.
The target group also includes staff who wish to develop their international competencies both nationally and internationally. The wish is to increase focus on both education and counselling, project work and development and research collaboration with partner institutions abroad.

4. Goals and initiatives

The goals must be fulfilled in accordance with the initiatives described in the plan of action 4.1 below.

A. Increase the number of students who wish to go on an exchange stay, including to fulfil the balance requirements of at least three months.

B. Increase the number of foreign students participating in both theoretical and clinical education

C. Increase the number of students participating in IaH activities such as education offers taught in English and virtual-based education with international lecturers

D. Create learning network to make room for dialogue, including the possibility to expand competencies between own students and staff and between international students and international staff

E. Contribute to increased staff mobility, both concerning exchange stay and activities as counsellor and lecturer

F. Establish international interprofessional courses at the health programmes

G. Ensure the quality and optimise our international services, including teaching, administrative tasks, information and documentation

H. Develop digital education offers

I. Establish development and research collaboration with institutions abroad.

4.1 Plan of action

Re item A. Exchange stay.

At the start of the studies, there must be focus on the possibilities to go on an exchange stay during the course of the education. At the 1st semester, exchange stay is introduced to the students as a part of their education. Throughout the education programmes, students must continually be informed on the possibility to do both theoretical and clinical studies abroad.

Materials are available to students with inspiration to and specific counselling advice on internationalisation. A re-entry programme is available and implemented for students going on an exchange stay abroad.

All staff must make the international area explicit during contact with students when lecturing and during counselling activities as well as when advising on career opportunities.

Attention must be drawn to the possibilities for internationalisation such as participation in and making presentations at conferences. Establishing and qualifying international offers including offers for at least three-month stays. Students who have been on an exchange stay are used actively in the marketing efforts, as inspiration and motivators in relation to potential and current students.

Students can acquire knowledge on internationalisation through different communication channels including study observations, summer schools, IaH and theoretical and clinical exchange stays. Conceptualisations are made when these qualify our international offers. Through the international exchange there is particular focus on the professional and cultural outcome, the professional and intercultural perspective.

Re item B. International and exchange students from abroad

The possibilities to offer courses equivalent of 30 ECTS at all health programmes at UCL must be explored and then implemented.

All relevant material for students and potential students from abroad must be drafted in English and be accessible online both externally and internally.

There must be an ongoing quality assurance and visibility of offers to international students in connection with the quality assurance of the education programmes.

Quality requirements for and guidelines to our English-language teaching and joint degree programmes are accessible.

Re item C. IaH

Use of IT will focus increasing attention on alternative options for internationalisation such as international conferences, summer schools and IaH.

All health programmes must strive to ensure quality and further develop network with work placement sites (clinical training sites) in connection with international students such as the Nursing Europe programme. It will be attempted to establish similar programmes in all health programmes at UCL. There is focus on development and quality assurance of IaH activities.

Re item D. International learning network

Establishment of re-entry programmes with workshops for interprofessional reflections aimed at students returning from exchange stays.

Development and establishment of international learning network for students such as online courses with international collaborators.

Development of existing and new international learning network between staff and international collaborators.
Re item E. Staff, including development of international competencies

The English language competencies of lecturers must be strengthened on the basis of planned competence development programmes e.g. through English language courses based on European Language Levels.

Staff is motivated for and the framework is clear for participation at e.g. international conferences, in research and development activities and intensive programmes.

The possibilities for mobility must be visualised and terms must be motivating.

All staff must be included in IaH activities.
Staff must optimise and apply their competences as ambassadors for internationalisation activities, both nationally and internationally.

Planning and completion of seminars for staff on themes such as “how do we increase staff mobility and how can each employee contribute to develop and ensure the quality of internationalisation?”.

Development of competence profiles for lecturers and key staff with an international profile.

Organisation of the international area must support development and ensure quality of the international area.

Re item F. Interprofessional course and joint efforts in international offers and knowledge sharing

International interprofessional education initiatives are offered to both international and own students.

Establishment of a mentor programme for students across the education programmes at UCL.

Organisation must ensure the interprofessional collaboration across the health programmes to the benefit of education programmes, students and staff.

Re item G. Quality assurance of the international work

Strategic efforts are evaluated systematically.

Evaluation activities must generally focus on all international activities across the health programmes.

The international team at the health programmes has the overall responsibility for evaluation of activities and are co-responsible for meeting the requirements for accreditation.

Re item H. Development of digital education activities

It should be investigated, described and implemented how digitalisation can contribute to qualify the international offers of the education programmes as well as how it can contribute to recruit students.

The possibilities for establishment of joint degree programmes must be investigated and described.

Re item I. Development and research collaboration

Collaboration with international partners on establishing development and research relations within the health programmes.
Establishment of international partnership agreements with focus on development and research.