

# **Internationalization Strategy Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz**

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| PREAMBLE   | 3 |
| 1. CONNECTED IN ONE WORLD: EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS                 | 4 |
| 2. GUTENBERG CAMPUS: „INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME“                            | 5 |
| 3. “UNIVERSITY WITHOUT BORDERS”: INCREASING INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY             | 6 |
| 4. ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL TALENTS: MARKETING AND RECRUITING                  | 7 |
| 5. WELCOME TO MAINZ: OPTIMIZING STARTING CONDITIONS                            | 8 |
| 6. SUPPORTING INTERNATIONALIZATION: <i>JGU</i> INTERNATIONALIZATION MONITORING | 9 |

# Preamble

*Science is international. Its purpose is to generate, convey, and preserve knowledge; it is not bound by space or time and its innovative strength unfolds during the exchange of ideas and perspectives from different cultural backgrounds.*

*The modern job market is international, as well. The experience of multilingualism and internationality within the scope of university education is important for every university graduate; similarly, this experience lays valuable groundwork for a successful career in this globalized world.*

*Therefore, internationalization is a dual task for Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU). In its role as a research institution, the university raises its profile through international cooperation and by establishing competitive specialization in research. In its role as an educational institution, JGU aims to recruit engaged, top-performing international students, researchers<sup>1</sup>, artists, and employees; promote international mobility, and prepare all of its members for the challenges of globally connected science, culture, and economy.*

*The character of a European university is deeply ingrained in JGU against the historical backdrop of its re-opening by the French military regime in 1946. In addition to increasing connections with French partner universities, a cooperation with Poland has been a focus since the 1970s. Thus, JGU - located in the heart of Europe - has traditionally forged connections with Germany's two largest neighbors to the East and to the West. Beyond that, today's JGU maintains vibrant exchanges with universities and research facilities on all continents. This network is constantly strengthening and expanding.*

*Open-mindedness and multilingualism are the hallmarks of interplay of the nearly 40 000 JGU researchers, artists, students, and employees from over 130 countries. Together, they face global questions and challenges. In their daily actions, they promote international mobility, take down borders brick by brick and profit from the advantages of international multi-perspectivity, in keeping with the 'Gutenberg Spirit': "Moving Minds – Crossing Boundaries".*

*Historical experience has shown how important the influence of international partnerships and the scientific exchange connected to them is for liberal-democratic, peaceful processes. Against this backdrop, JGU sees internationalization not only as an opportunity, but also as an obligation. With its internationalization strategy, the university acknowledges the indispensability of international co-operations in the face of global challenges and takes a stand against tendencies toward national isolation and against the limitation of freedom of thought and the transfer of knowledge.*

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<sup>1</sup> Here and throughout the document, doctoral candidates are included in the term "researchers".

## 1. Connected in One World: Expanding Partnerships and Networks

*JGU* will expand and consolidate its international cooperative network in the next years, motivated by the acquisition of new perspectives, by learning with and from the best, complying with international standards and being able to help shape these.

Specifically, *JGU* aims to

1. orient research and teaching more internationally, using the cooperation with international institutions;
2. maintain and expand its network of bi- and multinational co-operational degrees and graduate schools;
3. continue developing and consolidating its network of cooperative agreements with international partner universities (within the framework of EU, DAAD, DFH and other programs);
4. build a co-operative exchange of knowledge and initiate collaboration with universities in the global South;
5. strengthen ties with cooperative international research programs (EU programs, international graduate schools, international CRCs/TRRs);
6. broaden the international alumni network;
7. whenever reasonable and possible, intensify the collaboration in international projects with co-operation partners in the *German U15*, the strategic alliance of the *Rhine-Main Universities* and the collaboration of higher education institutions in Rhineland-Palatinate.

## 2. Gutenberg Campus: „Internationalization at Home“

The foundation for all of the international activities at *JGU* is an open, multilingual, and intercultural campus in Mainz and Gernersheim. This international research, teaching, learning, and working environment is meant to include all of the members of the university. In addition to promoting an international life and workplace, the following goals for “internationalization at home” put into practice the internationalization of the *JGU* curriculum.

Specifically, *JGU* aims to

1. better connect and publicize the various international activities of the institutes, faculties, and central institutions;
2. set up real and virtual “international classrooms” on campus and online in which international and German students work together;
3. make students, researchers, artists, and employees aware of the challenges and opportunities of interculturality and diversity and give them the tools to deal with them;
4. expand especially the course offerings in English and French and support teaching staff in developing and realizing the courses;
5. work toward internationalizing every degree program's curricula within the framework of university quality management and development;
6. significantly increase the number of international teaching staff and teaching staff with international experience in every faculty, school, and department;
7. broaden the range of services for international students, researchers, artists, and employees;
8. foster the dialogue on international topics and strategic internationalization.

### 3. “University without Borders”: Increasing International Mobility

Compared to other German higher education institutions, *JGU* students' international mobility is already high. With the recognition regulations of July 2015, *JGU* has taken the first steps to implement the Lisbon Convention and has reduced mobility barriers for its students. In addition to the continued increase in *JGU* students' international mobility, teaching staffs', researchers', and employees' stays abroad will be promoted and systematically prepared and implemented. At the same time, support measures will be increased for guest students, visiting scholars and visiting administrative staff, including the Mainz Academy of Fine Arts and the Mainz School of Music. Additionally, the experiences learned from both groups (outgoing and incoming) will be utilized for the improvement and development of the university.

Specifically, *JGU* aims to

1. increase utilization of the existing programs to promote their members' - as well as their guests' - mobility (quantitatively and qualitatively);
2. further reduce mobility barriers, especially by facilitating the recognition of examinations and course work credits earned abroad;
3. further develop the offers of support for bi- and multinational programs as well as for the *JGU* international graduate schools;
4. increase the number of internship placements for *JGU* students abroad and for international guests in Mainz and the surrounding area;
5. recognize teaching performances and other international experiences accomplished by *JGU* teaching staff in cooperative programs abroad;
6. create possibilities for systematically preparing and implementing its members' stays abroad;
7. develop and promote programs for short-time stays abroad.

## 4. Attracting International Talents: Marketing and Recruiting

The appeal of the courses of study and the quality of the research conducted are a major factor in attracting qualified international students, artists, and researchers. Against the backdrop of growing global competition, it is vital for *JGU* to stand out internationally and optimize its outreach to its target groups abroad.

Specifically, *JGU* aims to

1. increase the number of qualified international and internationally active students (both degree-seeking and exchange students), researchers, and artists;
2. recruit international scholarship holders and award-winning researchers for *JGU*;
3. improve the university's public image worldwide;
4. better coordinate its recruiting strategies with research areas and the courses offered;
5. develop and expand successful recruiting tools such as summer schools throughout the university;
6. and promote among its members and its alumni a willingness to represent the university as "ambassadors".

## 5. Welcome to Mainz: Optimizing Starting Conditions

*JGU* would like to continually improve its service and integration offers for international students, artists, and researchers. First steps were taken by building a central “Welcome Center” and further information and service offices. These will be consolidated and expanded so that every aspect of Mainz' welcome culture – from first contact with *JGU*'s websites to the admissions process to everyday life on campus or, respectively, the research activity on campus – is connected.

Specifically, *JGU* aims to

1. make sure international guests and new members feel welcomed from first contact on and, with the help of targeted offers, feel supported;
2. offer simple, straightforward, and transparent admissions processes for different international applicant groups;
3. , facilitate the entry into campus and city life for international researchers, students, and artists with a pleasant living environment through the construction of a guest house and in cooperation with Studierendenwerk;
4. increase the level of success for students with native languages other than German and with different educational experiences through advisory service offers throughout their studies, backed up by targeted study monitoring;
5. strengthen cooperation with Studierendenwerk Mainz, the Foreigners' Registration Office and other partners on campus and in the city of Mainz.

## 6. Supporting Internationalization: *JGU* Internationalization Monitoring

*JGU*'s internationalization strategy is based on a set of key internationalization data, which is collected in close collaboration with central and decentralized institutions. The university management uses the key data set to help make decisions for establishing new geographical activity focuses, for the promotion of interdisciplinary international research and teaching partnerships and for managing campus-wide offers of continuing education, advising, and mobility. Continual monitoring will contribute to the successful internationalization of *JGU* as a whole: Not only does it allow a review of the internationalization strategy's target achievement, but also for course correction if circumstances change, as well as for a transparent and need-based distribution of central funds.

Specifically, *JGU* aims to

1. develop measures for internationalization while taking into account these quantitative indicators;
2. better coordinate the various international activities on different levels and check their efficiency on a regular basis;
3. regularly discuss the scale and direction of internationalization at the university on the basis of empirical findings.