

TOKAT GAZIOSMANPASA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Our university, in the campuses Tokat Taşlıçiftlik campus, Ali Şevki Erek health campus and campuses located in its districts, with 17 Faculties, Postgraduate Education Institute, 3 Schools, 1 State Conservatory, 15 Vocational Schools and Research and Application Center that continued education and health activities, more than 1,300 faculty members, nearly 1,000 administrative personnel and 35,000 students, carries out works in the fields of education, scientific research and social service.

Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University, which is leading in education, research and practice in our country and acts with the vision of becoming a university internationally recognised, works devotedly to carry activities and achievements at the national level to the international arena. In this context, International Relations Coordinatorship was established in 2019 in order to reach its goal of becoming a world university that successfully carries out the internationalization process of our university.

Exchange programs, international student admission, foreign academic staff supply, invitation organizations of international researchers, cooperation with international university associations, making updates in accordance with the Bologna process, cooperation and partnership with accreditation institutions programs fall within the scope of the coordinator's duties.

In the preparation process of the International Relations Coordination Internationalization Strategy Document:

- Developing the internationalization infrastructure,
- Organization of information meetings about exchange programs,
- In order to increase the diversity of countries and institutions with which mutual cooperation agreements are made, domestic and international visits abroad,
- Management of international student exam, admission and registration processes,
- Online and face-to-face international student fairs held around the world participation,
- Facilitation of the procedures to increase the number of foreign academic staff and taking measures such as online application,
- In order to become an international university by activating the Visiting Faculty Member Program, enabling researchers to engage in scientific activities at our university,
- To follow the international recognition and accreditation processes,
- It includes that certain workflow processes that university's place in rankings by working with international university rating agencies such as ensuring.

Number of International Students (Total)	3536
Number of International Associate Degree-Undergraduate Students	3382
Number of International Postgraduate Students	154
Number of Erasmus Agreements (Country-University)	K131: 22 Countries/74 Agreements K171: 16 Countries/36 Agreements
Number of Mevlana Agreements (Country-University)	19 Countries/49 Agreements
Number of Farabi Agreements	94 Agreements
Number of MoU Agreements (Country-University)	29 Countries/49 Agreements

To be able to these activities listed above, together with a strategic point of view, execute more in an auditable format, systematic and participatory, internationalization strategy document preparation has been made a decision. In the preparation of this document, both in Higher Education Internationalization Strategy Document 2018-2022 and our university 2019-2023 Term the Strategic Plan is the basis. As it is known, the Strategic Plan; it is a document that includes medium and long organizations term goals, basic principles and policies, targets and priorities, performance indicators, the methods to be followed to reach them and the distribution of resources.

For a successful strategy, the current situation analysis and the SWOT analysis made accordingly have important. From a participatory perspective, both institution program coordinators and the SWOT analysis prepared with the participation of the unit coordinators is as follows;

STRENGTH SIDES	WEAKNESS SIDES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to innovations, transparent and participatory management understanding and the highest level of management support, • Proactive internationalization policy, • Dynamic academic staff, • Fees competitive learning for International Students, • Affordable living expenses, • Cooperation on internationalization with local government and civil society organizations, • A positive attitude of the city people towards the international student, • Safe and peaceful environment of the city, • Student-centred management approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of academic and administrative staffs who speak a foreign language, • Lack of corporate identity and belonging, • Economic insufficiencies, • Structural and bureaucratic problems arising from centralist approaches in the Turkish Higher Education system, • The absence of an international airport,
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidency of the Republic of Turkey and YÖK's positive view of international students, • The increasing number of students in Turkey, who come from countries which Turkey has cultural and historical ties, • Increasing the awareness of our university thanks to exams held by our university abroad and fairs it participates in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergence as potential competitors of all world universities, due to the recent increase in online education, • Increased competition with the increase in the number of foundation universities, • Decreased funding reserved for international students in the countries experiencing humanitarian crises and political instability.

Internationalization Vision

Our vision of internationalization is to become short-term regionally and long-term globally recognised, respected and preferable university with education, research activities and social contribution.

Internationalization Mission

In line with the internationalization vision of our university, to create the appropriate infrastructure, to ensure that it benefits from international programs and projects to the maximum extent, to carry out business and transactions related to international cooperation such as bilateral cooperation agreements, joint diploma programs and exchange programs, to be engaged in activities that will ensure its promotion in the international area, in this context, to bring qualified international students to our university and also to carry out student, academic staff and administrative mobility activities within the scope of exchange programs.

INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF TOKAT GAZIOSMANPASA UNIVERSITY

Internationalization in higher education includes all international activities and collaborations within the field of higher education, especially student and academic mobility. One of the concepts that comes to mind in this field is the international trend. This concept can be briefly defined as the student's continuing education in a country other than his/her own country. Another concept is the international student. According to UNESCO's definition, "an international student is a person who leaves national and regional borders for educational purposes and is registered as a student outside the country of his/her nationality". Also, according to the definition of OECD, "a foreign student is a person who is given the right to participate in a certain education program in an accredited institution outside his/her own country within the frame of visa or special permits. As of 2021, approximately 7 million students are travelling all over the world to receive an international education. As a result of this mobility, individuals add important social, cultural and economic values both to themselves and to the societies they visit. In addition, respective mobility also provides many direct and indirect contributions to the country's economy. Only a few of them are university fees, housing and health expenses, transportation expenses. On the other hand, the bonds of love that students from different countries will establish with our country after they return to their countries will bring along many social, cultural and economic cooperation. The internationalization of higher education is one of the most popular and important issues all over the world. The number of international students and lecturers is increasing every year, and countries and universities are competing to find qualified students and lecturers. In parallel with the developments in the field of internationalization, the Turkish higher education system has also shown a great development in recent years. Various strategies are developed in order for the Turkish higher education system to become an international centre of attraction and to gain more students and academic staff from more countries, and dynamics of internationalization are tried to be kept strong with the policies followed in this field.

Bologna Process, TURQUAS Project, Erasmus+ programs, Turkey Scholarships, Mevlana Exchange Program, joint diploma programs, Project-Based International Exchange Program, YABSİS Project, School Recognition and Equivalency Regulation, extension of the stay of doctoral students in Turkey after graduation are some of the important initiatives that strengthen this process.

As stated above, our university, which is aware of and conscious of the internationalization efforts that are increasing in importance throughout the world, continues its activities in this regard. Thanks to the strategy document, it will continue to progress in more systematic, visionary and an auditable way.

The internationalization strategy of our university focuses on two main target regions in the medium term. The first of these is the European Union countries through Erasmus and other EU projects, and the other is; Geographies with which we have bonds of love, such as the Turkic Republics, the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. Also, in the long term, it is aimed to increase the recognition of our country and our university by establishing cooperation networks within the frame of both TUBITAK joint project calls and Erasmus KA171 projects with North and South America and the Asia-Pacific region.

Our strategy to internationalize the services we offer as a university in these geographies consists of 5 main axes.

1. Development of the university's internationalization infrastructure,
2. Increasing the level of international regular and exchange students in terms of quality and quantity,
3. Increasing the level of internationalization of education and training activities,
4. Increasing the quality and quantity of project-based international activities,
5. Contribution of the university's internationalization strategy to the social, cultural and economic structure of province of Tokat.

The strategic aims under each strategic target are listed below.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

Strategic Purpose 1. Development of the University's Internationalization Infrastructure

Strategic Target 1.1 Harmonization of the relevant documents within the institution with the internationalization strategy of our university,

Strategic Target 1.2 Encouraging lecturers and students to change,

Strategic Target 1.3 Increasing the number of countries/institutions/units with which agreements are made,

Strategic Target 1.4 Increasing the international awareness of the university,

Strategic Target 1.5 Increasing the foreign language proficiency levels of students and instructors,

Strategic Target 1.6 Increasing the number of teaching staff who can teach in a foreign language and administrative staff who speak a foreign language,

Strategic Target 1.7 Increasing the number of programs providing education in a foreign language,

Strategic Target 1.8 Offering services in multiple languages of university web page and social media accounts,

Strategic Target 1.9 Preparing of department/unit/program promotional videos in more than one language,

Strategic Target 1.10 Participating in international fair organizations,

Strategic Target 1.11 Preparation of signboard and warning signs in more than one language within the university.

Strategic Purpose 2. Increasing the level of international regular and exchange students in terms of quality and quantity

Strategic Target 2.1 Increasing the level of incoming / outgoing exchange students with Erasmus in terms of quality and quantity,

Strategic Target 2.2 Increasing the level of incoming / outgoing exchange students with Mevlana in terms of quality and quantity,

Strategic Target 2.3 Increasing the level of incoming / outgoing exchange students with bilateral agreements in terms of quality and quantity,

Strategic Target 2.4 Increasing the quality and quantity of regular students coming with the International Student Exam held by our university,

Strategic Target 2.5 Increasing the quality and quantity of regular students coming with Turkey Scholarships organized by the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities.

Strategic Purpose 3. Increasing the Level of Internationalization of Education and Training Activities

Strategic Target 3.1 Increasing the active participation of lecturer members in exchange programs,

Strategic Target 3.2 Ensuring the internationalization of the curriculum,

Strategic Target 3.3 Increasing dual/joint diploma collaborations,

Strategic Target 3.4 Increasing scientific organization collaborations,

Strategic Target 3.5 Increasing the number of countries and institutions which is obtained

Equivalence / Accreditation,

Strategic Target 3.6 Diversification and increasing TOGÜ-YÖS exam centres,

Strategic Target 3.7 Increasing the number of publications in foreign languages in the Library and Documentation Centre.

Strategic Purpose 4. Increasing the Quality and Quantity of Project-Based International Activities

Strategic Target 4.1 Increasing the number of EU projects carried out or partnered by the institution,

Strategic Target 4.2 Increasing the number of projects of other international organizations carried out or partnered by the institution,

Strategic Target 4.3 Increasing the number of other joint international R&D projects carried out or partnered by the institution.

Strategic Purpose 5. The Contribution of the University's Internationalization Strategy to the Social, Cultural and Economic Structure of Tokat Province

Strategic Target 5.1 Ensuring that the internationalization strategy of the university is understood and owned by local stakeholders (Governorship, Municipality and NGOs)

Strategic Target 5.2 Increasing the activities in which local stakeholders are partners

Strategic Target 5.3 Ensuring that incoming students and lecturers become cultural ambassadors.