



International Relations Department

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION

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Introduction

The internationalization process is a significant aspect at UTEC due to its quality, competitiveness, and impact on Salvadorean society.

The internationalization is considered in the strategic plan and aligns with main functions in teaching, research, and social projection (university extension) as well as administrative management.

This plan has general aspects which are the basis of the annual plan in which is considered material and financial resources for the functions of each development unit and support unit in different academic departments.

Importance of the internationalization of Utec

The internationalization is a process that promotes universal understanding and develops skills needed for students, teachers, and administrative staff to live and work in a diverse world.

The internationalization process includes three main functions of teaching, research, and social projection in Utec.

In its intercultural and international dimension, Utec has the following modalities:

- 1) The first modality is the educational service across borders without flow of people through its virtual education programs.
- 2) The second modality is characterized by the displacement of a user of educational services from a country to another in order to receive a training.
- 3) The third modality establishes the presence of a provider of educational services in a foreign territory through the establishment of virtual or physical headquarters.
- 4) The fourth modality consists in the displacement of students and teachers from a country to another to provide and receive educational services through its exchange and mobility program by bilateral and multilateral agreements linking international students.

Furthermore, the internationalization of higher education is taken by Utec with the purpose of strengthening its actions, the model of competencies, and the labor insertion of its graduates in a globalized world. As students in exchange, they strengthen their ability to solve problems; ability to organize, plan, and make decisions; systemic vision, achievement motivation, concern for quality, ability to work in an international context, ability to adapt to new situations, appreciation for cultural diversity, financial planning skills for their efficient grant management (monthly allowance); and independency which strengthen their personal and professional skills. Also, Utec hosts international students providing an intercultural and academic environment which strengthen the global competencies.

On the other hand, management in international cooperation projects contributes to strengthening scientific and academic capacities. Therefore, Utec has a strict process for accountability demanded by international cooperation agencies. The following section presents the different programs through which the internationalization strategy materializes at Utec.

Internationalization programs

The programs are designed as broad lines to establish actions with an international dimension that support training, teaching, research, transfer, and relationship with society and culture.

Exchange and Mobility Program

Students:

To manage and provide information to Utec students with the purpose they can access mobility programs in Europe as well as in America and other continents within the framework of bilateral agreements signed to guarantee student mobility. It also has the tools to approve academic credits or curriculum to maximize the use of students in mobility. There are lines and research groups in which visiting students can integrate during their stays.

Academic and Administrative staff:

The main function of the DIR will be to manage, support, promote and coordinate the international projects in which academic and administrative staff of Utec can be involved. Also, the management of mobility and exchange through different actions that make it possible within the framework of agreements, International programs, networks and other spaces for the exchange between academic and administrative staff.

Cooperation Management Program

Through its financial and technical cooperation management, Utec will increase and enhance the quality of international mobility of the university community with the signature of new international agreements and new project within the framework of international university cooperation. Also, it will provide support on academic and research projects during its formulation, proposal, and management.

The Management of Agreements

There is an evaluation, a monitoring, and a follow-up for signed agreements and the ones to be signed with universities and other institutions both national and international as well as a control of records for agreements. Furthermore, advice would be provided for aspects related with process and elaboration of the agreements.

Dimensions of Internationalization in teaching and training

The reasons for the international dimension are:

- To provide an international dimension in teaching.
- Expansion of the academic horizon.
- Institutional development.
- International profile.
- Quality enhancement.
- International academic standards.

Academic strategies:

- Student exchange program.
- Study of foreign languages and expand the university's offerings in other languages.
- Joint or double degree graduates and postgraduate programs.
- Work/study abroad.
- Specific programs for international students.
- Visiting students and teachers.
- Academic and administrative staff mobility programs.
- Internationalization of research and transfer through the promotion of international activities between faculty and researchers such as:

- Joint research projects.
- International conferences and seminars.
- Publication of articles and papers.
- International research agreements.
- Support to foreign researchers.
- Relationship with Salvadorean culture and society.
This relationship is determined by the national cultural identity, the intercultural understanding, and the social and community development both national and international.

External and extracurricular relations are based on:

- Relations based on the community with NGO and the private sector.
- Community service and intercultural projects.
- Cooperation projects for international development.
- International networks and partnerships.
- Work with cultural groups in the community.

Conclusions

The plan for internationalization of Utec has the purpose of strengthening the international relations through the consolidation of a plan for language training, its evaluation system, and its quality based on international standards.

All the activities for internationalization has transversal objectives to strengthen a culture of internationalization based on gender equity and social inclusion as well as the interculturalism and the environment.

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