



STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION

INTRODUCTION

Nord University is a dynamic institution with strong regional ties, cultural heritage, and a global outlook. Our internationalization strategy aims to enhance global relationships, activities, and visibility. Internationalization is integral to our research and education, fostering global awareness, cross-cultural connections, and intercultural understanding. We are committed to building meaningful, long-term collaborations with institutions and individuals worldwide. For Nord University, internationalization strengthens the quality and reach of research and education. We will expand our global presence by showcasing our strengths, forming strategic partnerships, fostering research collaborations, and supporting student, PhD candidate, and staff mobility. This strategy envisions a bold expansion of internationalization, scaling activities to new levels in the coming years.

This strategy prioritizes sustainable development, academic integrity, and freedom. Nord University provides an attractive academic environment characterized by care, community, and connectivity. We emphasize hands-on learning, practical experiences, and engagement with local communities, embedding internationalization in research and education.

At Nord University, we value broad, inclusive, and open-minded collaboration. By working across disciplines, cultures, and borders, we aim to create transformative educational and research experiences that empower individuals and address global challenges. This strategy reaffirms our commitment to a global community rooted in respect, closeness, creativity and openness.

OVERALL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Our ambition is to position Nord University as a strong and distinctive international institution in research and education. By doing so, we aim to contribute directly to the achievement of key goals outlined in Nord's Strategic Plan 2030. Strengthening Nord University's international position will give new opportunities for research partnerships, increase international funding, and attract exceptional students, PhD candidates, and academics. Recruitment, marketing, and communication efforts will strategically support this work.

Through key alliances and networks, we will enhance our global reach and collaboration. These partnerships will advance high-quality research and education, particularly in Arctic and northern contexts. We will also engage in benchmarking to establish ourselves among institutions recognized for international excellence in research and education.

To achieve these ambitions, Nord University will develop an action plan outlining clear processes and concrete steps toward systematic excellence in international activities. This plan will empower students and staff to engage proactively, ensuring international students and staff feel welcomed, included, and integrated into the university community.

STRATEGIC GOALS

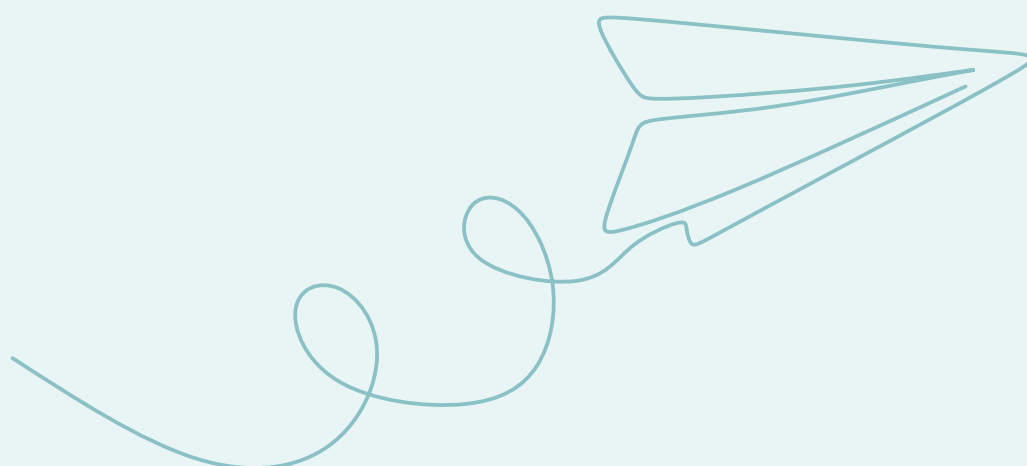
■ Visibility and profile

Nord University will enhance its global visibility and attractiveness by leveraging its four strategic core areas: Blue and Green Growth, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Health, Welfare and Education, and Public Security. With its unique High North location and national responsibility for Sámi languages and culture research, Nord University aims to become a leading voice in these domains. We also aim to grow visibility through collaboration with other Nordic institutions, giving collective effort to advance internationalization in research and education.

■ Research

Nord University will strengthen its reputation as an international research institution, recognized for innovation, knowledge transfer, collaboration, and impactful contributions. By participating in global research initiatives, securing competitive funding through European and other opportunities, and addressing pressing global challenges, we will strengthen our role as a sought-after partner in the global research community. Internationalization will also feature as a topic within our research portfolio, systematically exploring effective internationalization.

Investments in research facilities and infrastructure will attract top researchers, enabling us to deliver cutting-edge, internationally connected research that drives societal progress and environmental sustainability.



Education

We will integrate international and intercultural perspectives into study programs, ensuring that every student develops the skills and awareness needed to navigate an interconnected world. Internationalization will be embedded in courses, teaching methodologies, and study environments, with a variety of mobility and internationalization at home opportunities.

We will expand our international study portfolio by offering more programs in English for incoming semester exchange students and degree-seeking students. Additionally, every study program will feature virtual exchange opportunities, allowing students who cannot engage in physical mobility to acquire international and intercultural competencies. Our goal is to enhance the quality and competitiveness of our study offerings to attract students nationally and internationally.

Staff development will also be prioritized, with opportunities for international experiences through courses, teaching, research, and mobility programs, fostering global engagement across the university.

Mobility and recruitment

We aim to increase student and staff participation in international mobility opportunities, making them the norm rather than the exception. Our goal is for 20% of all degree-seeking students to engage in physical mobility, and all staff are encouraged to enhance their competencies through international experiences. Such experiences will be recognized as valuable elements of professional development.

Nord University envisions a future where mobility—whether physical or virtual—becomes an integral part of academic and professional life. We aim to establish a culture where engaging in international experiences is not only encouraged but is a defining characteristic of the Nord University experience.

We will actively recruit highly qualified international students, PhD candidates, and staff to enhance academic quality and diversity. Support systems will be strengthened, focusing on language, equity, diversity, and inclusion to create a welcoming environment where international community members thrive.

■ Strategic partnerships and collaboration

Nord University will deepen strategic partnerships aligned with the Strategic Plan 2030 and related sub-strategies. This includes strengthening our role within the SEA-EU Alliance, The Arctic Six, UArctic, and SANORD, while pursuing new alliances as needed. We will seek research and education collaborations with countries eligible for Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ funding, and other funding mechanisms in line with key national strategies, such as the Panorama strategy.

■ Implementation and monitoring

- The Strategy for Internationalization will be implemented through a systematic, clear sustainable, and achievable action plan based on each strategic objective.
- Rector's Strategic Management group (SLG) will oversee and follow up on the implementation of the strategy, together with the International Committee, the Research Committee and the Education Committee.

Regular reviews of the Strategy for Internationalization will be conducted to assess progress, and adjustments will be made as needed, ensuring that the strategy is aligned with Nord University's broader goals and the evolving local and global landscapes.

Strategy for Internationalisation

WHY

Essential to strengthen Nord's global presence, fostering high-quality research and education, and expanding international collaborations.

HOW

Enhancing visibility, fostering global partnership, securing research funding, attracting top talent, and promoting intercultural experiences through a structured internationalization action plan and key, strategic alliances

Visibility and profile

Education

Research

Mobility and Recruitment

Strategic Partnerships and collaboration

Implementation and Monitoring

Implemented through a regularly-reviewed action plan based on each element of the strategy

