



**University of Stuttgart**  
Germany

**Taking responsibility for  
international engagement  
and interconnection.**

Internationalization strategy



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**“An international university environment opens up a wide range of opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange, encouraging our researchers, students and employees to think globally and advance intelligent systems for a sustainable society in an interconnected world. A targeted internationalization strategy is therefore crucial in order to fully exploit this potential and position the university as an international hub for excellent research, innovative teaching and targeted knowledge transfer.”**

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Former Vice Rector for Diversity and International Affairs

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## Taking responsibility for international engagement and interconnection

### Internationalization as a holistic process

The University of Stuttgart places great importance on internationalization, with university members implementing internationalization in everything they think and do. This means purposefully integrating international and intercultural dimensions in all performance dimensions of the University of Stuttgart. This holistic process thrives on the commitment of all university members and impacts all areas of the university.

### Strategic approach to global competition

In the global competition for excellent minds, resources and optimal environments, a strategic approach is necessary. As a strategic goal, internationalization is therefore an essential component of the overall strategy of the University of Stuttgart and a high-priority leadership task. The University of Stuttgart is pursuing this strategic goal out of the conviction that internationalization contributes significantly to our innovative capacity and creativity in a fast-paced scientific arena. Furthermore, internationalization is a decisive component of quality development at the University of Stuttgart.

### Diverse perspectives and approaches

Prioritizing internationalization means promoting diverse perspectives and approaches. Students and researchers from all over the world study and research together at the University of Stuttgart, bridging cultures and subject areas. This exchange is the key to developing measured responses to global challenges by fostering innovative excellence, creativity and success.

### Excellent education and global responsibility

The University of Stuttgart educates students to become subject experts who feel at home in complex and intercultural contexts. University members make important contributions to understanding and overcoming socio-cultural, economic, ecological and political developments and challenges in local and global contexts. The University of Stuttgart acts sustainably and reflects on how international activities affect humans and the environment. Personal contact is essential for partnerships and cooperation and enables excellent science and innovation through exchange at an international level. The university assumes responsibility for its impact on the climate and the environment and adjusts business trips accordingly, making use of online formats when possible.

### Partnerships and cooperation

The University of Stuttgart integrates international and intercultural perspectives into its research fields, methods, content, programs and working practices. It plays an active role in its international cooperative projects and values partnerships on an equal footing with shared fundamental values and diversity in science. It offers an attractive environment for its members and guests alike and stands for academic freedom, equal opportunities, openness to the world, diversity and upholding human rights.

## International profile of the University of Stuttgart

### Internationalization as the key to success

The University of Stuttgart sees internationalization as central to continuing to occupy a top position among the leading scientific institutions in a globalized world. We offer a variety of subjects and subject cultures and follow the Stuttgart Way of interdisciplinary cooperation.

### Excellence in integrating knowledge

The University of Stuttgart is a renowned public research university known not only for its excellence in engineering and natural sciences, but also for its unique ability to link these disciplines with social, ethical and cultural considerations. Since its foundation in 1829, it has established itself as a leading institution worldwide, particularly in the profile areas of Aerospace Technologies, Architecture and Adaptive Buildings, Biomedical Systems and Robotics for Health, Digital Humanities, Production Technologies, Quantum Technologies and Simulation Science. Thanks to the breadth of its research areas and the active promotion of interdisciplinary cooperation, the university provides an optimal research network for all subject areas, regardless of size.

### Vibrant academic community

The university is characterized by a lively academic community. Over 21,000 students, around 21% of whom are international students, and over 5,000 employees, around 16% of whom are non-German nationals, are dedicated to promoting knowledge and innovation. The university values the potential of its members and offers excellent conditions for learning, research, teaching, for professional activities

as well as for everyday life on campus. Academic life at the university is characterized by diverse forms of international exchange and cooperation in research, learning and teaching, knowledge and technology transfer.

### Optimal location and strong networks

The University of Stuttgart also boasts a unique location: The state capital Stuttgart is home to people from all over the world and is surrounded by internationally renowned research and development centers, hidden champions of high-tech, globally oriented companies and highly respected media and cultural institutions. The city provides a high quality of life thanks to its attractive geographical location, its extensive network of parks and green spaces and the wide range of cultural activities on offer. One of the University of Stuttgart's strengths lies in its close cooperation with business and industry partners, shaping a dynamic environment for research and innovation. These activities have built strategic international partnerships and created ideal conditions for building and maintaining networks, making the University of Stuttgart attractive for international students, researchers and employees.

As a TU9 member, the University of Stuttgart is one of the leading technical universities in Germany, helping to shape the future and facilitating global partnerships with networks of technical universities.

The University of Stuttgart's strong commitment to interdisciplinary research and international cooperation encourages students and researchers to tackle complex global challenges. This ensures that the university remains at the forefront of technological progress and academic excellence and maintains its outstanding international reputation.





## Focus countries and regions

The University of Stuttgart sets strategic priorities for establishing new partnerships while also safeguarding academic freedom. We place great importance on our role as a European institution. Numerous partner institutes throughout Europe are connected to us through our common belief in the European idea and shared democratic values. Joint research financed through European funding programs and the mobility opportunities of the Erasmus+ program are central components of the University of Stuttgart's internationalization efforts and contribute to strengthening a (pan-)European identity. In addition to this, the University of Stuttgart also focuses on cooperation with North America, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, South Africa and Australia. These countries and regions share common ground with the University of Stuttgart and offer excellent opportunities for cooperation and research on an equal footing. The university also has numerous alumni who represent us in their local communities.

In addition to intensive bilateral cooperation with the countries and regions mentioned, the University of Stuttgart promotes its international visibility through membership in numerous international networks, including:

- Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER)
- European University Association (EUA)
- Magalhães Network (Europe-Latin America-Caribbean)
- Global Education: Exchanges for Engineers and Entrepreneurs (GE4) (Europa-Asien)
- Partnership of a European Group of Aeronautics and Space Universities (PEGASUS)

The University of Stuttgart also looks back on many years of fruitful cooperation with partner institutions in the Global South. We will continue to prioritize contributions to joint projects and initiatives in teaching, research and transfer with our partners.

## Strategic goals of internationalization

The University of Stuttgart has set itself five parallel goals as part of its internationalization strategy “Taking responsibility for international engagement and interconnection”.

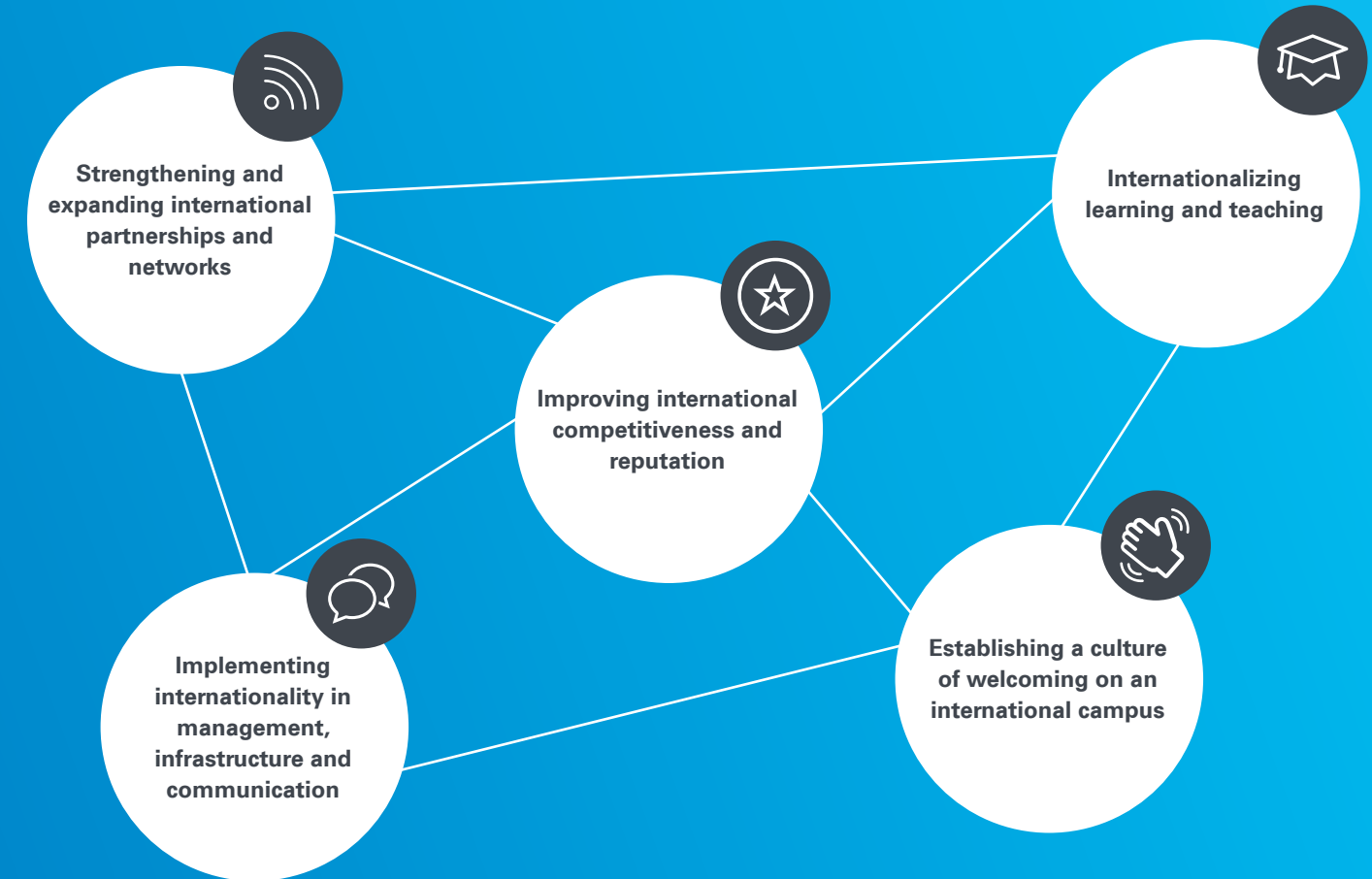
**First Goal:** Strengthening and expanding international partnerships and networks

**Second Goal:** Internationale Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und Reputation erhöhen

**Third Goal:** Internationalizing learning and teaching

**Fourth Goal:** Establishing a culture of welcoming on an international campus

**Fifth Goal:** Implementing internationality in management, infrastructure and communication





## Strengthening and expanding international partnerships and networks

International partnerships promote academic mobility, help attract outstanding talent and provide opportunities for the exchange and transfer of specialist, didactic and practical knowledge. The University of Stuttgart collaborates with a wide range of partner institutions worldwide to strengthen its position as a leading research university. We support individual partnerships as well as joint projects and networks. Bilateral contacts with international colleagues are of crucial importance and form the basis for sustainable partnerships. We place particular focus on strategic partnerships, covering several subject areas and faculties, research centers and administrative departments. The university continues to expand cooperation through existing and new formats, thereby promoting sustainable institutional collaboration. The University of Stuttgart is also involved in capacity-building projects to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



### Important measures implemented

- Institutional guidelines for the establishment and further development of strategic partnerships
- Strategic alignment of partnerships, e.g. with the University of Bergen (Norway)
- Global Glimpse funding program to finance stays abroad for networking in research and administration
- Future Mobility Grants to promote international research cooperation in the field of mobility as part of the ICM InnovationCampus Mobility of the Future
- Institutional guidelines for the establishment of double Master's programs and joint PhDs

### Planned measures

- Expanding cooperation with European partner institutions and establishing a European partner network
- Establishing strategic partnerships with universities in North America, Asia, Australia and the Global South
- Identifying further strategic partner institutions in focus regions through systematic research and analysis
- Providing and acquiring resources for internationalization measures; implementing pooling of funds
- Initiating an advice center for specific funding opportunities.

## Improving international competitiveness and reputation

The University of Stuttgart strives to strengthen its position as a leading scientific institution on an international level. Our academic excellence is showcased through the efforts of our researchers making internationally recognized research breakthroughs. Excellent research infrastructures, attractive degree programs and outstanding learning experiences at all academic qualification and career levels also play an important role in our international reputation and competitiveness. Our strong international presence, combined with targeted public relations initiatives, enables the University of Stuttgart to attract talent, mobilize resources and enter into partnerships to expand our potential in research, teaching and learning as well as knowledge and technology transfer.



### Important measures implemented

- Stuttgart Way of interdisciplinary cooperation as a basis for international collaborative research and teaching
- Structured support for research proposals and start-up funds for coordinated research programs
- Research-oriented degree programs with international appeal
- Knowledge and technology transfer with a global focus (start-ups and entrepreneurship, IZKT, ARENA2036, CyberValley)
- Promoting visibility and reputation as a TU9 university
- Strategic approach to international rankings and nominations for research awards

### Planned measures

- Establishing the University of Stuttgart as an international brand and increasing outreach through strong science communication
- Creating new incentives for the acquisition of projects in internationally significant funding programs
- Increasing the publication output and citation count in international peer-reviewed journals
- Structuring and intensifying active international recruiting, with a focus on candidates from non-German-speaking countries
- Expanding quality assurance in appointment procedures, e.g. through feedback interviews with newly appointed international professors
- Contacting promising talents at an early career stage to identify individual development prospects (e.g. Emmy-Noether, ERC grants)
- Leveraging the potential of international alumni (e.g. in international networking and in the recruitment of renowned researchers)
- Using the TRACES transfer center to expand international visibility

## Internationalizing learning and teaching

The University of Stuttgart aims to shape personalities who think globally, openly and interactively and act responsibly to advance science, society and business. To this end, we firmly implement the international dimension in learning and teaching and thereby enable all students and teaching staff at the University of Stuttgart to gain international experience. By 2030, 30% of students at the University of Stuttgart will participate in study-related stays abroad. There are transparent and uniform regulations for the recognition of courses completed abroad. We further advise teaching staff on the development of international courses, disseminate information about funding opportunities and support the establishment of networks. The university promotes multilingualism in both Bachelor's and Master's degree courses. International students value the University of Stuttgart as an outstanding institution with excellent study programs and extensive support offers. In addition to stays abroad, students at the University of Stuttgart can gain international experience through interactions with international lecturers and researchers, students from other countries and international project groups (in person or online). Courses on language and intercultural skills help international students to integrate into local communities, campus life and work environments. They also prepare outgoing students from Stuttgart to act as ambassadors for the University of Stuttgart abroad.



### Important measures implemented

- Extensive measures to support stays abroad, to advise and integrate international students and to ensure their academic success (e.g. promotion of intercultural skills, multilingualism through (specialist) language courses, buddy program)
- Bilingual writing center
- Erasmus+ of the European Union introduced as a strategically important mobility program with extensive thematic funding priorities as well as bilateral mobility programs worldwide
- Short-term programs for international students from partner universities (Winter University, Summer University, research stays)
- Numerous established double Master's programs, with guaranteed recognition of all courses from abroad
- International Master's programs

### Planned measures

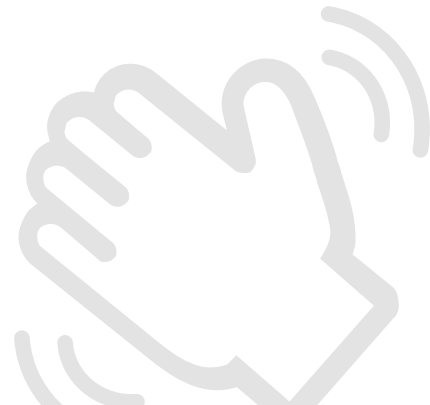
- Developing recommendations for the internationalization of curricula in terms of content and methodology
- Expanding the offering of English and multilingual courses in Bachelor's degree programs
- Establishing English-language degree programs specifically in strong research areas (e.g. strategic profile areas)
- Increasing the visibility of mandatory mobility windows in all degree programs and improving the recognition of study achievements: Ensuring the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, safeguarding the binding implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in examination committees
- Ensuring the availability of reliable information on English-language courses

- Informing teaching staff about funding and qualification opportunities and supporting them in setting up international networks (e.g. development of blended and virtual learning opportunities, joint teaching and learning materials)
- Further expanding short-term programs for international students from partner universities to ensure reciprocity in exchange programs
- Preparing outgoing students specifically for their role as ambassadors of the University of Stuttgart
- Coordinating advisory and support services for English and multilingual degree programs



## Establishing a culture of welcoming on an international campus

The university consistently implements and promotes internationality at all levels. We welcome international students, researchers, employees and guests of the university, value their contributions to the university and provide them with extensive support offers. To strengthen and enliven a culture of togetherness between international and German university members, the university has set up central contact points, established multilingualism at all levels, trained administrative staff to provide excellent service with an intercultural perspective and removed bureaucratic hurdles.



### Important measures implemented

- Support and recruitment of international researchers through the Welcome Center, the dual career service and the university's involvement in international career networks (e.g. GAIN)
- Standard administrative forms made available in English
- Intensive support for international students prior to arrival in Stuttgart, International Office provides detailed information and acts as central point of contact
- Intercultural Mentoring Program and Buddy Program established to integrate and support international students

### Planned measures

- Expanding the Welcome Center into primary point of contact for international guests and researchers
- Developing information and orientation offers for specific target groups (e.g. special onboarding programs)
- Streamlining key bureaucratic processes for international target groups
- Communicating consistently in multiple languages throughout the university (e.g. signage, administrative processes, website, internal communication, committee work)
- Expanding needs-oriented offers for language training and intercultural awareness
- Setting up dedicated structures to plan and support visits by international delegations and creating attractive accommodation options for international guests, especially for short stays
- Designing communal spaces



## Implementing internationality in management, infrastructure and communication

Internationalization permeates all areas of the University of Stuttgart as a cross-cutting issue, is firmly anchored at management level and enables synergies in all fields of activity through decision-making and participation processes. Our competitive infrastructure optimizes work and study conditions on an international campus, promotes networking within and outside the university and supports excellent research activities. Our internationally oriented communication highlights the advantages and strengths of the university and its talents. The university leverages data insights to address the needs of its members in a targeted manner and improve its international competitiveness.



### Important measures implemented

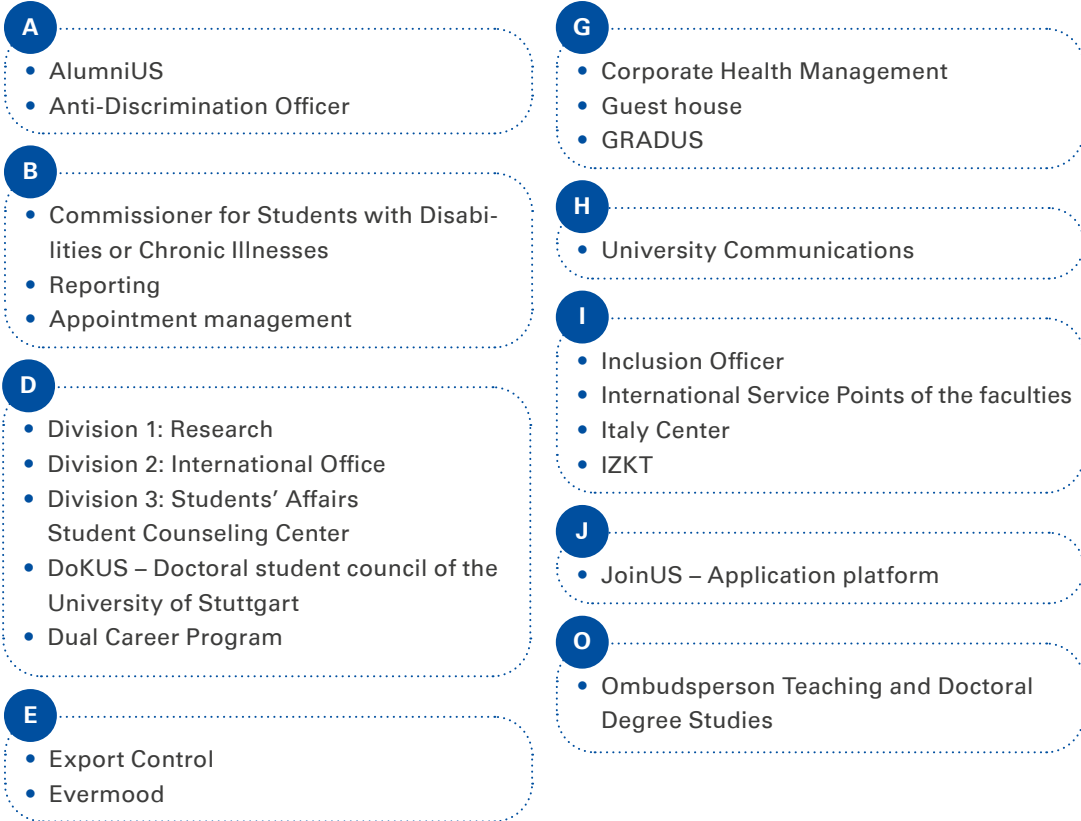
- Internationalization anchored in university management through a Vice Rectorate
- Steering Committee Internationalization (SCI) established as an advisory body to the Rectorate, bringing together contact persons for internationalization and facilitating communication with faculties and central institutions
- Onboarding for international guests streamlined
- Promotion of English language skills: Expanded training offers and events in English; support from translators and provision of translation tools
- Transparent and easy-to-use travel risk management established

### Planned measures

- Introducing a dedicated data management system for international activities, tenders, existing partnerships and international research projects
- Structured and coordinated approach to cooperation and partnerships
- Developing an up-to-date internationally oriented communication strategy adapted to various target groups
- Providing adequate resources to the AlumniUS Office to strengthen and effectively utilize international connections
- Further expanding the range of training offers for university members (language courses, legal training, export control, intercultural skills)
- Providing outgoing members of the university with a “travel kit” to represent the University of Stuttgart brand as representatives abroad



## From A to Z: Stakeholders, services and facilities





## Imprint

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