



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË  
UNIVERSITETI I ELBASANIT “ALEKSANDËR XHUVANI”  
REKTORI

## INTERNATIONALIZATION AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

The University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” recognizes that internationalization is a critical element in the development of modern academic institutions. In today’s interconnected world, universities must look beyond national borders to establish themselves as competitive players on the global stage. Internationalization not only enhances the quality of education and research but also opens up new opportunities for students and faculty to engage with global academic and professional networks. As such, the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” is committed to becoming a globally recognized institution that fosters international collaboration, supports global academic excellence, and prepares its students for the challenges of a globalized world.

### 1. The Strategic Vision

Internationalization is not merely an aspiration but a strategic priority for the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani”. To achieve this objective, the university will focus on building strong international partnerships with renowned universities, research institutions, and global organizations. These partnerships will not only enhance the university’s academic standing but will also enrich the student experience, promote knowledge exchange, and facilitate collaborative research efforts that address global challenges.

A key aspect of this internationalization strategy is the creation of double-degree programs at all academic levels, including Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. These programs will allow students to earn degrees from both the University of Elbasan and its partner institutions, ensuring that they graduate with qualifications that are recognized and valued internationally. The university will also prioritize academic exchanges for both students and staff, encouraging cross-cultural learning and the sharing of best practices in teaching and research.



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In line with these efforts, the university will strengthen its presence in international educational and research networks, aiming to position itself as an active contributor to global academic and scientific discussions. By engaging in such networks, the University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani" will not only enhance its reputation but will also create new opportunities for collaboration, funding, and joint research initiatives.

Additionally, the university recognizes the importance of attracting international students to create a diverse and inclusive campus environment. This objective will be achieved by offering high-quality academic programs that are relevant on a global scale and by ensuring that the university's campus is a welcoming space for students from all around the world. Ultimately, the internationalization strategy will serve to enrich the academic and cultural experience for all students, fostering a global perspective and preparing them to navigate an increasingly interconnected world.

## **2. Concrete Measures for Achieving Internationalization**

To realize its goal of promoting internationalization and global competitiveness, the University of Elbasan will implement the following concrete measures:

**1. Strengthen international partnerships:** The university will actively seek new strategic partnerships with leading academic and research institutions worldwide. By collaborating with top universities and research centers, the university will broaden its academic and research horizons, offering students and faculty access to a wider range of resources and opportunities. These partnerships will include joint research initiatives, the exchange of students and faculty, and the development of double-degree programs that provide students with an international perspective on their fields of study. Special attention will be given to establishing strong collaborations with universities from Europe, North America, and other regions, ensuring that the university's international reach is diverse and far-reaching.



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**2. Increase participation in global research networks:** The university will encourage its faculty and students to become more involved in international research networks. By participating in global academic conferences, workshops, and collaborative research projects, the university will raise its profile in the international research community. Moreover, the university will seek to secure funding from international research programs such as Horizon Europe, which provides substantial financial support for collaborative research initiatives. These collaborations will help to ensure that the university’s research is at the forefront of addressing pressing global issues, ranging from climate change and sustainability to health and social inclusion.

**3. Enhance multilingual competence:** As part of its internationalization strategy, the university will place a strong emphasis on enhancing the multilingual competence of its students and staff. Offering language courses in Albanian, English, and other major European languages will increase the university’s ability to engage in international exchanges, collaborations, and research initiatives. Ensuring that academic programs are increasingly offered in English will also help attract international students, making it easier for them to integrate into the academic community. By promoting multilingualism, the university will empower its students to participate in the global academic landscape and enhance their employability in international markets.

**4. Develop International Student Recruitment Programs:** The university will launch targeted marketing strategies aimed at recruiting international students. These efforts will include attending international education fairs, strengthening the university’s online presence through multilingual websites and social media, and developing promotional materials tailored to different global regions. The university will focus on promoting its English-language programs, which are of particular interest to international students seeking high-quality education in Albania. By attracting a diverse body of international students, the university will foster a global learning environment that benefits all members of the academic community.



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5. **Expand Erasmus+ Participation:** The University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” will maximize its involvement in the Erasmus+ program, which offers opportunities for both student and staff exchanges across Europe. By increasing participation in Erasmus+, the university will further enhance its international mobility and academic cooperation. The Erasmus+ program will allow students and staff to experience different educational systems, cultures, and academic practices, helping them develop a deeper understanding of global issues. Additionally, the university will encourage the establishment of Erasmus Mundus programs, which provide opportunities for students to study at multiple European institutions, further enhancing the university’s international standing.

**6. Support international research collaboration:** The university will create mechanisms to support and incentivize faculty members who wish to engage in interdisciplinary, international research projects. Faculty will be encouraged to collaborate with colleagues from leading global institutions on research initiatives that address the world’s most pressing challenges. Furthermore, the university will establish support systems to help faculty apply for international research funding and will promote international publications to ensure that its research is widely disseminated and recognized globally.

**7. Foster a multicultural campus environment:** Creating a welcoming and inclusive campus environment will be a top priority for the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani”. The university will organize cultural exchange programs, international student events, and global forums that allow students and faculty to share ideas, experiences, and knowledge with their international peers. The university will also provide support services for international students, helping them adjust to life in Albania and ensuring they feel integrated into the university community. By fostering a multicultural atmosphere, the university will promote cross-cultural understanding and prepare students to become global citizens.



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**8. Ensure Alignment with Global Academic Standards:** In order to maintain its competitiveness on the international stage, the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” will continuously review and update its academic curricula to ensure alignment with global academic standards. This will include integrating international best practices into the teaching and learning process, ensuring that graduates are well-equipped to succeed in the global job market. The university will also actively participate in international accreditation processes and benchmarking exercises, allowing it to assess its programs against global standards and make improvements where necessary.

By implementing these measures, the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” will strengthen its international profile, foster cross-border collaborations, and enhance its competitiveness in the global higher education landscape. The strategic focus on internationalization will ensure that the university not only meets the demands of global education but also actively contributes to global academic and scientific development. This commitment to internationalization will benefit the university’s students, faculty, and staff, enriching their academic experiences and preparing them for successful careers in an increasingly interconnected world.