



## **Internationalisation strategy 2021 of the University of Graz**

### **Introduction**

The University of Graz is firmly embedded both in its region and in international networks. Our employees and students enjoy the advantage of our links with partner institutions throughout the world, from strategic partner universities and from our membership in international networks. Internationalisation is enabling us to make our ambitions a reality, achieving excellence in teaching and research, and addressing our responsibility towards society. Our goal is to advance research and teaching at our university through internationalisation, in collaboration with our academics, researchers and students in the faculties, as well as colleagues in administration, to make our university an attractive place to work and study.

Internationalisation measures enhance study programmes, teaching and research, and ensure the university is well integrated in the international research community. As one of Austria's largest universities, the University of Graz has for several decades now encouraged all members of the university to engage in international academic discourse, in both European and global contexts.

Our efforts are focused on intensifying our networks and collaborations and developing the appropriate strategies and instruments. Our strategic partnerships and the Arqus alliance play a particularly important role in this. These enable us to promote excellent research and teaching, and are of benefit for internationalisation at all levels of the university's activities.

International collaboration is essential for further development of research excellence, and to enable us to reflect as a university on the current and future challenges facing our society, and contribute actively towards finding solutions.

Conscious of our social responsibility as a comprehensive university, we aim to create and communicate sustainable perspectives in a globalised world which faces cross-border challenges. We empower our students and equip them to help shape the world of tomorrow. Their active involvement in the international academic community is not only of benefit to them – they also contribute to its further development.

In committing itself to this standpoint the University of Graz aims to work with all individuals and groups in our faculties and departments to achieve the objectives of this internationalisation strategy.



## **Internationalisation objectives**

As an internationally oriented institution for education and research the University of Graz will intensify its collaborations with high-achieving research and teaching universities all over the world, and continue to enhance its attractiveness and reputation. We aim to offer optimal support and ideal conditions to all members of our university, to ensure that internationalisation becomes a permanent feature of our university and consequently in our region. We work with outstanding partner institutions and together we are researching for the world of tomorrow.

To this end, the University of Graz has set the following objectives for internationalisation:

### **Further development of study programmes and teaching through internationalisation**

The opportunities already created by internationalisation in both learning and teaching will be more integrated. Educational projects should increasingly be designed such that they could form a basis for subsequent research cooperation. In teaching and curriculum development, the existing opportunities will be expanded with other schemes such as *internationalization@home*, *global windows* and *blended mobility*. To complement physical exchanges, and in close collaboration with the faculties, there will be increased use of digital communications media as a way to aid the further internationalisation of teaching and learning. The use of hybrid teaching formats with international content and components will help students to understand the global context of their studies and to benefit from international discourse in a range of multilingual formats.

### **Excellent research through internationalisation**

Successful research requires extensive international dialogue and good international cooperation programmes. Internationalisation is a key element of these activities, strengthening research and embedding it in an international context. Within our particular Fields of Excellence we already have a well-developed international network for collaboration and research, offering the latest research infrastructure, and over the next few years we will expand this further.

With its commitment to internationalisation, the University of Graz aims to move into new areas of research, and to enhance research excellence through involvement in international research projects. Not only academics in broad-based areas of research, but also researchers working on self-initiated projects will find it helpful to be involved in internationalisation schemes. Internationalisation and collaboration with strategic partner universities and alliances help to energise research programmes.

International initiatives for doctoral studies will be further intensified and early career researchers will be even better integrated into international research cooperation projects, providing an outstanding basis for their future careers.



### **Societal engagement through internationalisation**

With its expertise in research and teaching our university contributes to the analysis of society's current and future problems, and to devising viable solutions. Internationalisation plays a key role in this. We take a pro-active approach to societal engagement, both in the regional context and internationally, and accept the responsibility we have for active participation in the wider world.

Working in close collaboration with our international partner institutions in fields such as sustainability and climate change we are working to improve life not only for ourselves, but also for future generations. Future options for physical mobility programmes will be brought more consistently in line with aspects of sustainability than previously. This is linked to our responsibility to reflect constantly on our university's activities, and to develop these further. In addition, we want to actively model the outcomes we aim to achieve, through expert and research-led engagement in various levels of society.

### **Strengthening the institutional structure through internationalisation**

*Our foundation is based on integrating internationalisation throughout our institution:* With close cooperation between all areas of the university a step-by-step programme for internationalisation of research and teaching is being developed, and thus becoming an integral component of the university's structural framework.

To determine the impact of various measures at university level, as well as at faculty, institutional and department level, this programme will be internally evaluated and then fine-tuned within the university, so that the findings can be used for further developments.

Evaluations in the international context within our university partnerships and cooperation projects will help to sharpen the university's profile and attract cooperative projects that are oriented towards our interests and focus areas, thereby enhancing excellence and international visibility both for the University of Graz and for our partner universities.