

## **‘HSWT GOES INTERNATIONAL’ – OUR INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY**

Amidst increasing globalisation, internationalisation is steadily becoming more and more important for HSWT. As a central building block in the development of the university’s profile, this is a substantial task spanning locations, subjects, status groups and organisational units. It is therefore necessary to further expand the international activities of all departments at HSWT and in doing so, exploit synergies between existing regional and national activities. Along with the constant development of HSWT’s main tasks, practical training and application-oriented research, this creates unique potential for attracting international students, teaching staff and researchers, as well as to qualify German students for the international job market. This creates an exchange between institutions and cultures, while also helping to solve regional and global issues.

The internationalisation strategy ‘HSWT goes international’ is based on the motto ‘Making HSWT more international’ and focuses on four strategic objectives. The strategy is a dynamic one and is constantly adapted, particularly in terms of initiatives. The four objectives are:

### (1) Strengthening students’ international skills

Ensuring that students are qualified for the increasingly globalised job market is a key component of the university’s commitment to education. In light of the important role international experience plays in the job market, HSWT aims to equip as many students as possible with professional, language and intercultural skills. This will ensure that the students are better qualified for both the German market and the international market. To achieve this objective, HSWT offers its students a wide range of language courses, opportunities to complete international study visits and internships, participation in funding programmes (e.g. Erasmus or DAAD), double degree programmes as well as successful cooperative partnerships with more than 80 educational institutions worldwide. HSWT actively works to expand the options available. In future, HSWT chiefly aims to establish new collaborations with international universities, simplify the recognition process of courses and studies completed abroad, as well as offer a greater range of English-language courses as preparation for a period of study or placement abroad or as part of ‘internationalisation at home’. We will achieve a comprehensive increase in mobility by establishing an internship database, creating our own funding programme, and through increased participation in international projects and networks.

### (2) Promoting a culture that embraces people of all nationalities

Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences wants to become more attractive to international students, lecturers and researchers and in doing so, promote the exchange of ideas between people, institutions and cultures. International visitors enrich the university by sharing new ideas and promote a change in perspectives across teaching, research and the transfer of knowledge. HSWT therefore promotes the establishment of a culture that embraces people of all nationalities as a natural consequence of HSWT’s international network. This should actively put into practice the appreciation of international visitors and their valuable contribution to enriching HSWT and should minimise ‘friction loss’ during visits of international guests.

A university-wide culture that embraces people of all nationalities includes improved support, developing the language and intercultural skills of all university members, and improving the integration of visiting lecturers and international students into teaching activities without administrative, linguistic or cultural barriers. Expanding English language courses and placing an international focus on the selection of teaching staff should also guarantee appropriate language skills. In addition, English language modules will be more fully integrated into existing study programmes, such as through project work and elective subjects. By expanding English language study programmes, HSWT creates a platform from which it can attract more international students, for example through the English language Masters course 'Climate Change Management', offered for the first time in the 2020/21 winter semester.

### (3) Increasing the international mobility of university members

Increased mobility of university members helps to establish long-term collaboration, guarantees the exchange of content and ideas, and enhances the quality of research and teaching. Furthermore, periods of study and placements abroad promote intercultural and language skills, enhance motivation and lead to a change of perspectives for staff, all providing the basis for expanding internationalisation. One method of implementation should be by means of an incentive system for university members. The Erasmus+ programme acts as a strategic tool for promoting the mobility of staff and lecturers. Moreover, much greater use should be made of participation in international networking events to cultivate relationships and establish new cooperative partnerships.

### (4) Expanding international structures

HSWT strives to expand its internationalisation activities by developing organisational structures and participating in partner networks. This includes large and smaller subject-specific networks as well as internal structures which help to strengthen HSWT's potential and reputation. The recently founded 'Centre for International Affairs' creates an organisational structure which combines and coordinates all of HSWT's international activities. By establishing the HSWT International School, the university is opening up new avenues in academic collaboration, which strengthen HSWT's international focus and visibility. The creation of an HSWT-wide alumni network is planned to enhance the profile of HSWT. Participation and engagement in international networks and initiatives, such as the newly founded Africa Network, contribute both to the increased visibility of HSWT in the international arena and to honing HSWT's international profile.

The 'HSWT goes international' strategy forms the framework for the expansion of international activities. In this way, the university responds to the challenges it faces and takes responsibility for the further development of the European Higher Education Area, the European Research Area and beyond.