

# INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY

## INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC MISSION

---

Following the publication of Law 4610/2019 the Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, the Technological Educational Institute of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace and the Technological Educational Institute of Central Macedonia merged with the International Hellenic University which was initially established by Law (No 3391/2005, article 1) and operates as a Higher Education Institution.

Today the International Hellenic University (IHU) comprises 7 Schools, 31 Undergraduate Departments and operates 32 Postgraduate Programs.

The University also operates the University Center of International Programmes of Studies (UCIPS) as an academic unit offering programmes of first, second and third cycle that are taught exclusively in English to Greek and foreign students.

The International Hellenic University (IHU) aims to provide research and teaching of high standard and serve the economic and social development of the country.

According to the strategic plan, the University's mission, based on its vision and values, and taking into account its strengths and weaknesses in combination with opportunities and challenges from the external environment, is to:

- Develop subjects that respond to current developments in science and technology, the needs of society as well as the students' expectations for studies of high academic standards,
- Continuously revise and improve curriculum in all three study cycles and continuously develop the programmes offered in order to keep them updated and internationally appealing,
- Support research in all disciplines with an emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation,
- Expand the University's cooperation with national and international organizations,
- Promote transparency in evaluation procedures,
- Connect with the wider society.

The international development strategy is an integral part of the University's mission strategy and it is closely linked to the European Union regulations and international standards.

As Higher Education in Europe and globally becomes more and more demanding, the challenge for the University to achieve global recognition becomes imperative and it is a prerequisite for the University's participation in the unified European and global higher education area.

# INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY

## INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC MISSION

---

The International Hellenic University, responding to an increasingly globalized domain, focuses on improving its academic standards for students and on establishing open collaborative spaces for its teaching and research staff.

Moreover, the IHU recognizes the growing importance of European and International academic mobility and is committed to amplify and enhance its international activities.

IHU's strategy of internationalization joins research, teaching, learning and the University's relationship with alumni and society.

Internationalization contributes to the University's vision to become:

- A leading European Institution in research and teaching
- A center of high level education and culture in the wider European area, ensuring international academic recognition.

The University's research identity is gradually becoming more widely known abroad. The results of its academic staff research efforts, both in the form of publications and also participation in international research programs and networks, continuously enhances the visibility of the research and academic work carried out at the University and contributes considerably to IHU's European and international identity.

The main activities of the Erasmus programme concern academic mobility. Student mobility enables skills development, acquiring experiences of a lifetime and forging the European culture. Learning abroad equips students with a wide range of abilities that, in addition to improved language skills and the knowledge acquired through their studies, enables them to understand different cultures. Moreover, students doing traineeships at companies and organisations gain a better understanding of other economies and corporate thinking. This unique experience gives them an advantage in an increasingly competitive market and continues to have a positive impact throughout their careers. It further promotes participation in the market and their research interests with a view to responding to the needs of a society that requires a high level of knowledge and prepares them for better integration in an intercultural and global environment. In conclusion, academic and administrative staff mobility cultivates the exchange of educational experiences and the improvement of educational processes and increases the capacity of the University staff to develop skills.

In this context, a wide range of networks and partnerships to international institutions are very important for maintaining educational exchanges, research, continuous improvement of the curricula and increased employment opportunities for graduates.

The criteria for selecting partners are based on the following guiding principles:

- ✓ Quality of teaching and research

# INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY

## INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC MISSION

---

- ✓ Subject-area and scientific relevance of the programmes
- ✓ Regional integration and international diversity.

In more detail:

- Joint curricula and research interests are examined in depth, before joining a partnership. The strategic relevance of the partner to the University's mission and the international reputation of the partner play a key role as regards the choice.
- The legal status of the partner and the ability to conclude partnership agreements.
- The partner must be ready to demonstrate appropriate quality assurance mechanisms. A system of automatic academic recognition between countries and a common credit transfer system (ECTS) must be established in advance.
- Evaluation of the way the partnership will support the University's strategic objectives.
- The financial soundness of the partner and the financial viability of the proposed cooperation.
- The level of risk associated with the partnership and whether this risk is manageable (geopolitical etc.)
- The added value of the partnership for both parts.
- The cost of living in the host country, fees or other hidden costs that may prevent student or staff mobility.

The International Hellenic University has already established partnerships with educational institutions in countries of Southeastern Europe, the Black Sea region, the Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, America and East Asia.

The IHU aims at further strengthening its links with these areas while enhancing the development of partnerships with other international institutions in order to strengthen education, research and attract students.