

## University of Peradeniya

**Policy Name** : Policy of Internationalization at University of Peradeniya

**Policy Number** : UoP-P-011

**Date of Approval:** : 04.04.2021 (approved by the 503<sup>rd</sup> Council)

**Supersedes** : Not Relevant

**Approving Authority** : The Council, University of Peradeniya

**Administrative Responsibility:** Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Director and Board of Management of International Relations Office, Deans of faculties, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes

**Monitoring Responsibility:** The Council, University of Peradeniya

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### Overview:

**Internationalization** is the process of developing, implementing and integrating an international, intercultural and global perspective into the purpose, functions and delivery of higher education of an institution.

Internationalization is extremely relevant as a key component of the changing landscape of higher education, with global visibility of an institution and its international reputation and recognition being vital. Internationalization has a major role in developing its teaching, research and innovation, while improving the institutional prominence and expanding the impact of the institute both nationally and internationally.

Over the years, the University of Peradeniya has initiated many major initiatives to upgrade its quality of education. Now, the University of Peradeniya wishes to broaden its international linkage in order to upscale its current effort to internationalize its teaching, learning and research.

The University of Peradeniya established its International Affairs Office (IAO) in 2012, which currently functions as International Relations Office (InRO). It's main goal is to develop and sustain comprehensive and effective internationalization programmes. InRO is the key office managing partnerships with international HEIs and staff/student mobility schemes (Annexure II).

The tasks of the InRO are aligned with the vision of University of Peradeniya in its venture to be a centre of excellence in higher education with national, regional and global standing. This involves uplifting the international standing of the University of Peradeniya by developing and sustaining comprehensive and effective internationalization programmes that are based on academic, research and administrative activities geared towards increased global engagement for students, faculty, and other staff.

The "Strategic Focus" of internationalization of the University of Peradeniya (Annexure I) has its activities and objectives within the following goals of the Cooperate Plan of University of Peradeniya 2017-2021:

01. Enhance the quality and relevance of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the University, in compliance with international standards
02. Develop the resources to enhance the quality of research in order to contribute to the national and international requirements

This Policy shall be reviewed and confirmed every five years to maintain its relevance and validity.

**Scope and Application:** This Policy applies throughout all Faculties, Postgraduate Institutes, Departments, Centers and Units of the University.

**To whom it applies:**

1. Administrative Authorities of the University
2. All Staff Members
3. Students

**Key Areas to which it applies:**

1. Teaching, learning and research
2. Assessments, grading and credit transfer
3. Study programme design and development
4. Quality assurance activities
5. Student support systems including career guidance
6. International relations
7. Finance management and prioritizing
8. Accessibility of programmes to foreign students and staff
9. Staff development

**Policy Purpose and Objectives:**

This policy sets out the principles and practices on which the University aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To improve the visibility of the Institution at regional and global standing.
2. To find new sources of international funding for research, innovation and educational development.
3. To maintain the highest possible academic standards where students are prepared for a global career as world citizens with a global mindset.
4. To align with discipline specific globally accredited undergraduate and postgraduate curricula or to obtain such global accreditations where possible to achieve equal international recognition.
5. To build capacity for innovative research with national and global impact in partnership with leading overseas institutions.
6. To improve the institutional procedures by sharing international best practices in higher education and research.
7. To increase the presence of international experts and students within the university community enhancing the exposure level of all local stakeholders.

**Key Policy Principles:**

1. All mechanisms for internationalization of the University of Peradeniya, shall be designed, developed and sustained within the framework defined by the relevant national policies, principles and laws.
2. Being a public state funded university, the Institution shall ensure that benefits of the internationalization of the University reach the public of the country directly or indirectly.
3. The University of Peradeniya shall encourage bilateral or multilateral agreements/MoUs with overseas institutions when there are demonstrable benefits to all partners involved. All

decisions on such agreements/MoUs are guided in the first instance by considerations of academic excellence. Maximum caution shall be exercised when entering into such agreements/MoUs, considering the limited financial, physical and human resources at the University of Peradeniya.

4. The University of Peradeniya shall consider overseas institutions representative of a wider international community when entering into agreements with a view to broadening the opportunities for the students and the staff.
5. The University of Peradeniya shall take every effort to facilitate international links and provide the staff with opportunities to visit overseas institutions and work with international colleagues. To this end, the University shall establish a mechanism to promote its internationalization activities with the central governance of the International Relations Office in order to connect to staff members in all its Faculties and Postgraduate Institutes.
6. The University of Peradeniya recognizes overseas study as a value addition to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Therefore, the individual academics and Faculties shall promote overseas study among students.
7. The University of Peradeniya, in all its faculties and postgraduate institutes, shall take necessary steps to develop a comprehensive credit transfer system with overseas institutions.
8. The University of Peradeniya shall strive to benchmark its curricular with relevant international standards with a view to improving their quality and obtaining international recognition to the study programmes offered at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
9. The University of Peradeniya shall encourage and facilitate international exchange and other short-term educational opportunities for students. Measures shall be taken either by the University or by the respective Faculty to prevent those students from being disadvantaged in their progress in their study programmes at the University of Peradeniya due to their overseas stay.
10. The University of Peradeniya shall ensure that the internal processes and procedures assist the university academia in developing necessary overseas links in the areas of teaching, research and innovation and in seeking funding sources internationally.
11. The University of Peradeniya shall ensure that the international links of its academics of varying strengths shall be leveraged to the advantage of the University. Hence, an internal mechanism shall be established to enhance local collaboration and communication to harness the strengths of the academics who are more internationally linked and visible. All the staff members (academic, non-academic and administrative) of the University of Peradeniya shall be obliged to report all their formal international activities to the University.
12. All internationalization activities at the University of Peradeniya shall be deliberate, planned, sustainable and consistent with the Corporate Plan and the broader strategic objectives of the University of Peradeniya.
13. The University of Peradeniya shall strive to maintain accountability and transparency by eliminating any conflicts of interest when executing its internationalization activities.
14. The University of Peradeniya considers it crucially important to work with reliable overseas institutions/partners that share and appreciate the academic values and emphases of the

University of Peradeniya in order to provide a quality experience for both its staff and students.

**Definitions:**

**Internationalization:** the process of developing, implementing and integrating an international, intercultural and global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of higher education.

**Internationalization activities:** teaching, research and innovation and administrative activities conducted at and/or under the purview of University of Peradeniya that will support in the process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of higher education (in its broader sense), in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make a meaningful contribution to society.

The main components of internationalization of higher education are the recruitment of international students; development of international collaborations; development of student-, staff-, and scholar-exchange programmes, the internationalization of the curriculum and research; and the promotion of education partnerships with other institutions regionally and internationally.

**Short-term educational opportunities:** all teaching, learning and research activities (with or without accumulation of credit value) conducted at the University, which do not amount to a degree, but shall be considered as partial requirements (or substituents) towards a degree. These include but are not limited to: summer school (or equivalent) programmes, short courses, certificate programmes, international student and/or staff exchange and mobility programmes, short-term collaborative research programmes, special audit studentships.

**Overseas institutions:**

1. Foreign Institutes of Higher Education (including but not limited to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, research, innovation) denoted by the following names: University/Institutes
2. International Research Institutes (not focusing on undergraduate and postgraduate teaching as their main purpose)
3. International Industries which commercialize research and innovation that are in close operation with other Foreign Institutes of Higher Education as defined in this document

**Related Policies:**

Curriculum Development, Quality Assurance, etc.

**Related Acts, Rules, Regulations, Key Circulars:**

University Act, etc.

**Annexures:**

I - "Strategic Focus" of internationalization of the University of Peradeniya

II – Streamlining Activities of International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya