

## INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGIES 2018-2023

The Universidad Católica del Uruguay (Catholic University of Uruguay) looks to be an attractive *ethos* that invites young people to live a human and academic experience, characterized by an innovative profile, excellence in teaching and research, institutional agility, and not only personal and global commitment but also with the community.

As a result, its priority is the continuous improvement of the academic quality and the academic programs, ensuring that quality through processes of self-evaluation, accreditation and curricular redesign, increasing the international connections and strengthening the teachers' capacities and dedication.

There is no doubt that in the current global scenario, marked by the new information technologies and communication, the global employment market, and the new migratory flows, imposes new challenges on our University in the way of forming citizens for the world that have a broad and diverse cultural approach. To walk in this direction, the UCU has defined five internationalization strategies to consolidate in the period 2018-2023, which involve the main activities of college life, those are: teaching, research, and the service to the community. In the following pages we will present a summary of those five strategies:

### **1. Student and teacher Movility**

#### STUDENTS

The Universidad Católica del Uruguay (Catholic University of Uruguay) proposes to increase the number of students, both *incoming* and *outgoing*.

To make the University more appealing as a destination for foreign students, it is intended to rise the number of courses taught in English in the main areas, and also to implement cultural activities that would contribute to a better formation through their stay at UCU. We will also

look to offer internships and practices in local institutions, both in the business and the health area.

As a way to encourage the outgoing mobility, for several years the University has redesigned some of its study plans, incorporating an international dimension. Because of this, several programs include a semester of elective courses that can be taken abroad, with a lot of facilities to recognize the credits. Considering this experience very successful, it is intended that those advantages are extended to every academic program at the University.

The University aspires to be able to encourage student mobility for those who attend the campuses outside of Montevideo, and specially for the students who do not possess enough economic resources. As a path to accomplish that, the UCU takes part in the mobility program of the network of Latin-American Jesuit universities (AUSJAL), and promotes the participation of these students in the Erasmus+ programs.

In order to capitalize the experiences of both the *incoming* and *outgoing* students, the University implemented an activity called *Unpacking the experience*. Based on the experiences lived by the students both abroad and in UCU, the goal of the activity is to implement improvements and innovative changes locally.

## TEACHERS

The Universidad Católica del Uruguay (Catholic University of Uruguay) sees the teachers' mobility in several ways: as a part of academic formation, stimulating the procurement of doctorate degrees; fomenting the participation in multidisciplinary and international teams; encouraging the best teaching practices shared through short work stays. To do so, the University has a Program of support to teacher mobility, which destines central funds of the University for this training.

But also, the University intends to increase the number of foreign professors and incorporate them to its staff and its programs. To do so its fundamental to encourage the academic networks that it belongs to, and also the selection of carefully selected international partners.

## **2. Study Abroad Programs**

For the following years the Universidad Católica del Uruguay (Catholic University of Uruguay) intends to design several “*study tours*”, some of them with pre-established themes, and the rest under the “*Tailor Made Courses*” format, according to the interest established by the visiting institution. Also, we look to generate agreements with other universities abroad that would allow our students to participate on this kind of program in different countries, and specially for the students of the UCU Business School.

## **3. Double degree programs**

Even if the current legislation of our country does not yet foresee this degree mode for private higher education institutions, we intend to advance on new agreements with international programs that would allow to accomplish it through taking an extra year of the course abroad, once finished the program in the country of origin.

## **4. Fomenting the Internationalization at home**

This mean of internationalizing the University consists of fomenting the active participation of the local students in the activities that involve foreign students at the University, such as the international fairs, the welcoming receptions, trips, linguistic tandems, amongst others. Also, we try to promote the incorporation of more scholarship students to the team of Exchange Student Tutors, since it is an excellent vehicle to accomplish their integration.

From the point of view of the professors’ home internationalization, it is possible to reach it through the implementation of education programs from the distance. In that way the University started to go on that path through the implementation of two undergraduate programs in the area of health (Psychology and Nursing) and some graduate programs. It is desirable that in the next few years it is possible to offer more programs under this modality.



## **5. Geographical priorities**

The Universidad Católica del Uruguay (Catholic University of Uruguay) has, since its origin, kept bonds of academic cooperation with universities from Latin America, Europe (Western Europe), and the United States, forming networks that hold great prestige worldwide.

However, over the last few years it has broadened its horizons in the search of partners in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. For the next few years it is intended to continue with this expansion policy towards areas that are of high interest for both teachers and local students.

Furthermore, in a favorable frame for the study of Spanish as a second language in those geographic regions, the Universidad Católica del Uruguay (Catholic University of Uruguay) looks to position itself as an academic destination of interest for students and professors who learn or teach our language in their universities of origin.