



Private Provider of Higher Education

UBT COLLEGE

UBT Institutional Cooperation and Internationalization Strategy 2021 - 2025

**INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION AND
INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY
2021 - 2025**

Prishtinë, 2021

1. INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY OF UBT

In general, UBT defines institutional cooperation as ‘formal partnerships between two or more higher education institutions and/or institutions developed through a process whereby the partners share resources and leverage complementary strengths to achieve defined common objectives.’”

UBT’s institutional cooperation strategy is tied to the strategic goals and objectives of the college as a whole. Successful institutional partnership should be:

- **Multidimensional** – Agreements are not bound to a single faculty, nor department or program (nor to a single discipline). The partnership must therefore be an attractive international platform by offering opportunities to as many faculties, departments as possible, and equally to individual researchers, lecturers and students.
- **Sustainable** – Agreements are not bound by the limits of a single project, but cross-projects.
- **Sources to added value** - Agreements aimed at strengthening the individual position of the partner institutions. This translates into joint objectives that are recognized by all partners.
- **Reciprocal** - Partners enter into a shared commitment to ensure continuity through an equal, active contribution and through an equal investment.

Therefore, a strategic institutional partnership is a multi-dimensional and cross-project partnership between two or more institutions on an equal and complementary basis and in mutual management, which results from a well-considered policy supported by all partners on an institution-wide basis. The partnership thus forms a framework for intensive cooperation between the partners in the field of education, research, services and institutional management with a view to strengthening their joint but also individual position.

This Strategy supports our College mission and vision of advancing knowledge and transforming lives through high quality education and research. Building on our previous Institutional Cooperation and Internationalisation Strategy, we aim to be a learning organisation enriched by the diverse experiences, values and cultures of our students and staff. In broadening our view of the world, we aim at preparing our students to play their role as global citizens, and, as a College deeply rooted in our location – an anchor institution - have a positive impact in Kosovo’s and the region’s social and economic development.

2. INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF UBT

Within the framework of the Institutional Cooperation and Internationalization Strategy, this section sets the framework for strategic international cooperation activities.

International partnerships are an important part of UBT's institutional cooperation. Therefore, UBT builds, develops and supports partnerships with leading institutions and organizations across the world. These partnerships contribute to the internationalization strategy of UBT and partner institutions in many ways.

Pillar 1: Internationalization at home	Pillar 2: Internationalization abroad
Helping faculty and students develop an international professional network and competitiveness in the global marketplace by means of curriculum/teaching/learning	Negotiating international cooperation agreements with foreign universities
Implementing international research projects,	Managing international mobility and exchange programs for students and staff
Analyzing foreign education systems and conducting strategic plan for UBT's internationalization	Encouraging multicultural understanding and acceptance through various projects/services
Organizing extracurricular activities (e.g. conferences, exhibitions etc.)	Joint/dual programs
Coordinating and advising students on various services and information such as: scholarships, required documents for application, visa, travel, accommodation, study possibilities etc.	
Making UBT a more multi-lingual, diverse, tolerant and inclusive community by means of open access education	

The broad goals for UBT's strategic international cooperation are:

- to strengthen the link between research, education and services to society, within an international context;
- to enhance visibility and impact of UBT in the international environment, by coordinating long-term partnerships in order to consolidate the leading role of UBT;
- to seize opportunities (networking, funding etc.) within the international environment to enhance the impact of UBT

Special emphasis is put on collaborations that:

- focus on networking with high interest and/or high influence partners;
- focus on networking with countries of strategic importance for UBT;
- show a strong focus on human capacity building;

- align themselves with the overall strategic goals of UBT in sustainable development and internationalization

Moreover, following are specific objectives that are taken into consideration and ways on how UBT aims at achieving each objective:

OBJECTIVE	TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE UBT WILL:
<p>Develop programmes and study opportunities to deliver a student experience which provides our students with the international outlook, knowledge and skills to work in the global economy and to play their part as world citizens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that international themes including sustainability and global citizenship are included in our curriculum whether the programmes are delivered in UBT or elsewhere in the world. • Ensure our student experience is inclusive and meets the needs of students from all parts of the world. • Include in our employability initiatives student employability around the world. • Develop excellent support and advice services that support the varied needs of our global student body and enhance their experience with us. • Sustain a range of high profile social and cultural activities reflecting the diverse staff and student groups at the College and where possible engage the City of Prishtina and Western Balkan regions in these. • Encourage students to engage in international volunteering opportunities.
<p>Increase and sustain a network of academic partnerships for the delivery of UBT programmes across Kosovo and the Western Balkans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our global partnerships are primarily focussed on quality, financially sustainable and reputation ally robust and phase out partnerships which do not meet the ambitions in this Strategy. • Develop a three-year rolling plan for identifying high priority parts of the world to focus partnership development for the College, matched to our academic strengths, with a particular emphasis for 2019-2023 on Western Balkan Area and new emerging economies in the European States. • Seek partners who share our College values and in particular our mission to transform lives. • Seek partnerships which grow our global reputation and visibility as a world class College. • Continue to develop and extend activities with our existing partners. • Use technology to enable delivery of modules and programmes around the world (whether in partnership or from UBT initially piloting the use of technology in transnational education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our partnerships where our programmes of delivered overseas maintain the high academic standards expected by the College and share the values, we hold for the student experience. • Involve our Students’ Union and the student body in UBT and overseas in our partnerships network. • Support and promote links to global cooperation to enable graduate employment opportunities and the growth of our enterprise agenda
<p>Increase the diversity of our student body by seeking to attract international students from a wider range of countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from and apply world best practice in the recruitment of international students to our College, always ensuring a friendly and welcoming experience. • Develop and sustain a range of agent relationships and overseas offices which support our international recruitment activity. • Develop programmes which meet the needs and aspirations of international students. • Sustain student services and partnerships with external organisations which support international students as students and as part of the community of Prishtina. • Offer active scholarships and bursaries to international students of high merit. • Recognise the challenges of studying in higher education in a second language and provide English preparation and support which enables our students to succeed. • Develop networks and events which promote what the College, city and Kosovo region has to offer. • Work closely with partners in Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia and Europe for international student progression or entry to our programmes • Keep engaged with our overseas alumni. • Use technologies to our best advantage in enabling international networking remotely and delivering accessible programmes around the world in creative and innovative ways.
<p>Open our College to the numerous possibilities and opportunities afforded through a global exchange of ideas, values and experiences for both our students and our staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support staff and student mobility schemes such as the International Student Exchange Programme (ISEP) and Erasmus • Develop a range of student study abroad or exchange opportunities across the world. • Develop a coherent range of short course/summer school opportunities, credit-bearing where appropriate, for our students to study overseas and for overseas students to study in UBT.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for staff and students studying or working overseas to ensure they are well prepared and safe. • Provide training and development opportunities for all staff in the College to support the delivery of this Strategy and in particular to enable staff at the College to deliver an inclusive student experience for all our students wherever they are from. • Develop a small number of global programmes delivered across the UBT network where students would spend several periods of study overseas as an integral part of the programme. • Deliver robust recruitment and retention of international staff to the College, ensuring that we learn from and encourage adoption of their unique international perspectives into our activities. • Reflect international influences through the physicality of our campus environments to reflect our increasingly global community within the context of our college location
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KEY STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

UBT Internationalisation Strategy is shaped and informed by the rapid globalisation and worldwide interconnectedness within which higher education institutions operate. We consider internationalisation a core theme cross-cutting all of our activities and reflect it as such across all the strategic objectives of our College Strategy.

Our Internationalisation Strategy sets out six goals we will pursue to advance our internationalisation agenda. Within these, there are key strategic opportunities that we will seek to deliver:

- A commitment to developing international opportunities both ‘at College’ and across the world to create a truly connected and culturally responsive institution.
- A commitment to embed international themes, including sustainability and global citizenship, across all of our programme curricula, teaching, research and innovation.
- A commitment to offer all students the opportunity to have an international experience.
- A commitment to the quality and alignment with our mission, vision and values of all existing and potential international activities over quantity and financial drivers.
- A focus on developing our international footprint through partnerships and/or student recruitment in key areas, specifically the Western Balkan area and European area.

KEY THEMES

Our College and specifically Internationalisation Strategy has a number of key themes relating to internationalisation. This Strategy seeks to build on and develop the following themes:

- Developing excellent learning environment in partnership with our students. In particular, offering a globally relevant and culturally rich experience by growing our global student body and encouraging all students to undertake curricular and extra-curricular activities with an international perspective
- Building on the world class research of the College and growing its research standing and impact internationally
- Fostering and promoting international opportunities for our students and staff through cross cultural events on our campus; exchange and study abroad programmes and research and professional connections
- Taking UBT's experience across the world by expanding the delivery of our programmes and courses overseas

RELEVANCE TO STUDENTS AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Student - this Strategy is our commitment to developing a number of exciting and enriching ways to engage with the world through studies. This includes the design and content of your programme, opportunities to collaborate with students from other parts of the world and opportunities to study abroad or to gain a UBT degree and student experience overseas.

Staff at the College - this Strategy reinforces our College commitment to initiatives which will enrich the student and staff experience from a global perspective and broaden our reputation and influence around the world.

Alumni - we want to keep in touch with our alumni wherever you are in the world and will continue to support the establishment of groups and events to keep you in touch with the College and each other. We want to support the impact you are having on the world as leaders in and contributors to a global society.

Partners or Potential Partners - this Strategy sets out our commitment to sustaining and growing the depth and number of our global partnerships and sets out the key features we look for in existing and prospective partnerships.