

Action plan for internationalisation 2017-2019

Background

Södertörn University's *Ethos, mission statement and overall objectives 2015-2019* emphasises that internationalisation is necessary for realising the university's overall vision of multidisciplinary, multiculturalism and liberal education. Strategic, targeted work on internationalisation is necessary to increase the quality of research and education.

Additionally, the university's *Internationalisation Policy* (Reg. no. 1910/40/2012) states that internationalisation shall define the entire university's activities and that internationalisation work shall be documented in action plans, both centrally and at the academic schools. For work with internationalisation to be conducted in accordance with the university's vision and objectives there is a need for an overall action plan. This action plan is for the three-year period 2017-2019 and is thus linked to the *Ethos, mission statement and overall objectives...* effective until the end of 2019.

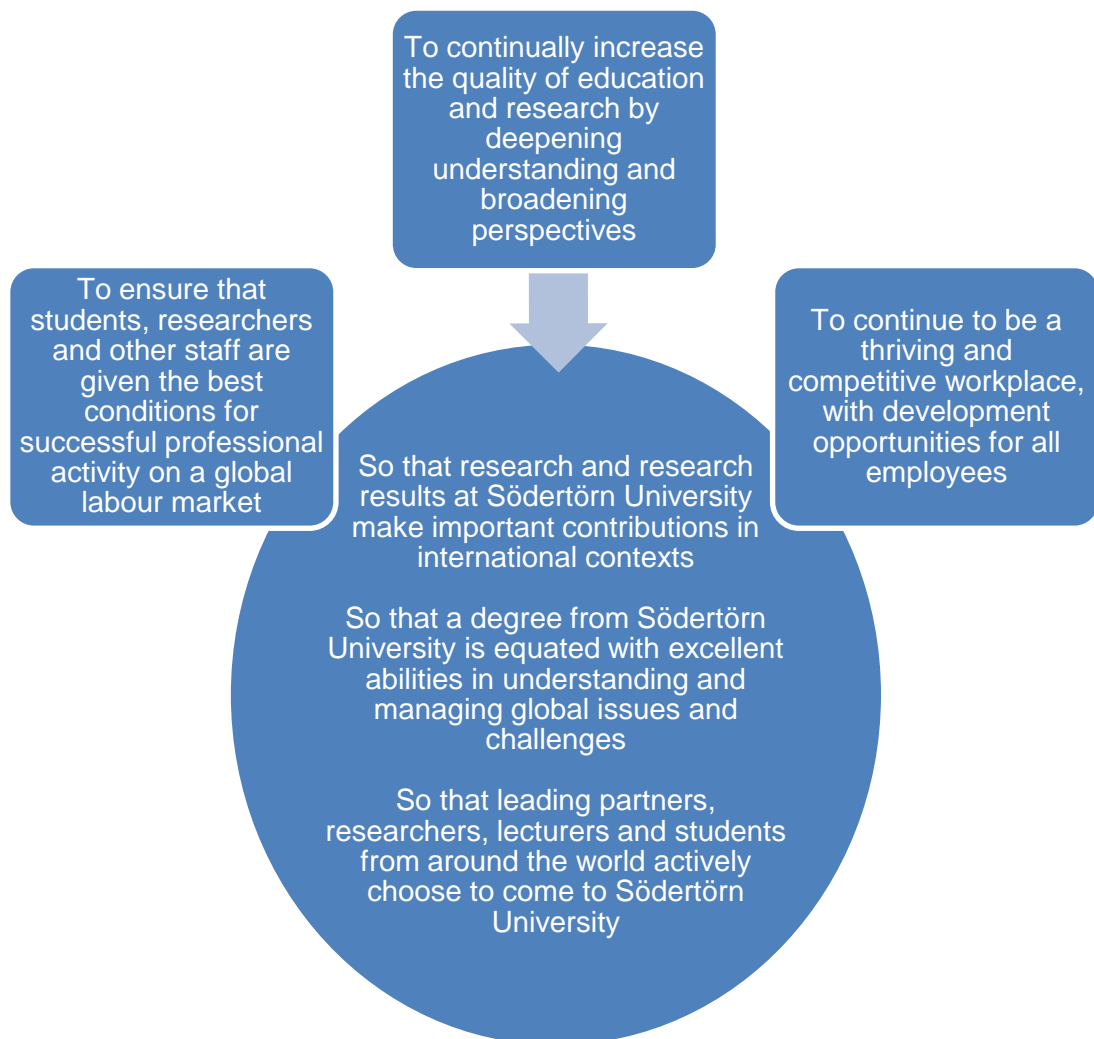
The development of a central action plan was initiated by the Advisory Board for Internationalisation in the autumn of 2015 and included a workshop at which suggestions for prioritised activities were developed. In the same year, the annual quality assurance conference was held on the theme of internationalisation and the Governing Board discussed the focus of the university's internationalisation work. In 2016, the proposal was accepted as an action plan by the Management Council.

In March 2017, the Vice-Chancellor decided to allocate funding for the three-year period 2017-2019 to integrate courses in English at first-cycle level (Reg. no. 713-2. 5. 1-2017). This activity is one of several stated in this plan. The university's management is also responsible for providing the resources it deems necessary for completing the action plan.

The action plan in its entirety is effective from 25 April 2017 until 31 December 2019. Annual follow ups are conducted through the academic schools' annual reports and by the relevant units in the university administration.

Why internationalisation?

The illustration below shows how internationalisation activities at Södertörn University include students, teaching staff, researchers and other staff, and aim to **raise the quality of education and research**.



Objectives and prioritised activities 2017-2019

1) Increase staff and student exchanges

Activity	Action taken by	Time plan
By 2019, each academic school will have increased the number of courses it offers in English at first-cycle level by at least two courses per year. The new courses must be part of the regular offering and taken by both Swedish and international students.	Subject and programme councils; INi International Coordinator provides documentation.	2017-2019: planning and course development. 2018-2020: 8 new courses worth 7.5 credits per year, for 24 new courses during a three-year period, equivalent to 180 credits in 2020.
Starting in 2018, the university will offer teaching staff skills development and support for teaching in English.	HPU ⁱⁱ	2017: planning and staffing. 2018-2019: HPU offers CPD in the educational aspects of teaching in English.
All subjects and programmes must make an inventory of the opportunities for students to study and/or go on placements abroad for at least three months with full credit transfer for the subject/programme, to increase the number of mobility windows for students.	Subject and programme councils	2017: Mobility window inventory. 2018: Revision of syllabi where necessary. 2019: Clear information available about when studying/going on placements abroad with full credit transfer is appropriate.
Create space in staffing planning for particularly relevant teacher and researcher exchanges, for the purpose of enabling strategic cooperation with partner universities selected by the academic school.	Academic schools (allocate funding to suitable candidates after individual applications)	2017: planning and work with staffing plans. 2018-2019: More strategic exchanges conducted at an academic level.
Increase the accessibility of exchange studies outside Europe by establishing participation in more grant programmes for student exchanges focusing on Asia and Africa, for example.	AVM ⁱⁱⁱ ; SA ^{iv}	2017: Planning and recruitment. 2018: Applications to Erasmus+ ICM, LP, ASEM-DUO. 2018-2019: Marketing of new grants for outgoing students.

2) Increase the number of international students and places at second-cycle level

Activity	Action taken by	Time plan
Design a strategy for the recruitment of more paying third-country students with the aim of increasing the number of students and places on the university's international Master's programmes.	IR _v ; KA _{vi}	2017: Strategy decided autumn 17. 2018-2019: Implementation of the strategy; annual follow ups with the programme coordinators, IR and KA.
Based on the strategy for recruiting third-country students: a) develop the university's work on international student recruitment b) professionalise support for freemover students, both fee payers and non-fee payers.	University administration	2018: increased support capacity for managing freemover students. 2019: More admitted third-country students on Master's programmes taught in English.
Up to 2019, there will be targeted efforts to produce courses in English in Master's programmes in the humanities, or to develop a multidisciplinary Master's programme in the humanities.	Academic schools (IKL _{vii} and HSS _{viii}). People to take specific responsibility for these efforts are appointed collegially.	2017-2018: planning and course development. 2019: at least 60 credits on Master's programmes in the humanities will be offered in English and studied by both Swedish and international students.

3) Internationalisation at home

Activity	Action taken by	Time plan
Actively follow up and make use of outgoing students' experiences of studying abroad, focusing on learning. Produce working methods for use students' experiences of international exchanges in their own subject and programme.	Subject and programme councils	2017: Work starts. 2018: Work in the subject and programme councils. 2019: Evaluation of new working methods.
Utilise the expertise of refugee academics by allocating funding that programmes and subjects can apply for, for hiring newly-arrived academics as visiting lecturers.	Subjects and programmes	2017: Pilot round in the autumn semester 2017. 2018-2019: Guest lectures in many of the university's subjects and programmes.
Allocate funding for co-financing, so the university can offer at-risk academics (via Scholars at Risk, for example) visiting positions for teaching and/or research.	University management	2017: survey of external conditions. 2018-2019: Funding allows the university to host 2-4 at-risk academics for visiting positions as lecturers or researchers.

4. Increased investment in international research partnerships

Activity	Action taken by	Time plan
<p>a) Strengthen and professionalise administrative support for EU projects.</p> <p>b) A strategic investment in organising annual EU days that broadly target the university's researchers (e.g. workshops in writing applications, highlighting good examples).</p>	University Support Services	<p>2017: Increased administrative capacity for supporting EU projects</p> <p>2018: 3-5 new EU applications</p> <p>2019: Another 3-5 EU applications</p> <p>Objective: around 1 application per academic school per year</p>
Active support for young researchers' career opportunities by increasing focus on, for example a) mobility for doctoral students and young researchers b) increased participation in international doctoral networks c) establishing support for Marie-Curie applications.	People responsible for third cycle education; research advisors; research officers	<p>2017: Needs analysis and planning</p> <p>2018-2019: Professionalise and coordinate support for exchanges, networks and applications.</p>
Establish partnerships that allow the university to offer housing to incoming visiting researchers.	University administration	<p>2017: Partnership agreements signed</p> <p>2018: Housing can be offered to incoming visiting researchers/lecturers.</p>

i IN = Management boards for academic schools

ii HPU = Academic Staff Development Unit

iii AVM = University Support Services

iv SA = Student Support Services

v IR = Advisory Board for Internationalisation

vi KA = Communication and Public Relations

vii IKL = School of Culture and Education

viii HSS = School of Historical and Contemporary Studies