



UNIVERSITY OF LUSAKA

Strategy of Internationalization

1. Preamble

The University of Lusaka is committed to international collaborations to enhance its teaching learning, and research activities. The Higher Education Authority of Zambia, which regulates Higher Education Institutions encourages these academic collaborations, in order to strengthen academic institutions.

The University undertakes to promote academic collaboration through national, regional and international networks and partnerships.

The internationalization policy fits into the Institutional strategic plan, which aims to improve training, research, innovation and academic performance. The main tenets of this policy are itemized below as follows;

- Guidelines for internationalization
- Building international networks and strategic partnerships
- Areas of internationalization

2. Guidelines for internationalization

- **Vision:** Within its vision, the University aims to benchmark with other national, regional and international universities in areas of research and training. Therefore the overall academic activities are anchored around the view of education as a global commodity and university as a international community of learners.
- **Admissions:** The University promotes admission across national, regional and international boundaries in order to promote learning across multicultural and multilingual divides making education borderless. This strengthens and enhances both the learning, teaching and research processes of the University.
- **Research:** The University promotes collaborative research across national, regional and international boundaries. Through the application of collaborative research grants the generation of new knowledge benefits for all peoples making education and knowledge a right of all peoples of the globe. Equally the benefits of research patents and inventions available to all communities wherever they may live.
- **Training:** The University aims to train to an international standard, through student and staff mobilities. The exchange and sharing of curricula in various fields of learning and the sharing of credits among students transferred across national, regional and international boundaries are key components of the University's internationalization strategy aimed at promoting better educational practices worldwide in order to promote better educational practices worldwide. Further, the University sees this practice as key to providing students with internationally accepted skills, that give them access to the Global labour market.

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- **Staff:** The recruitment of staff across national, regional and international boundaries. This allows the cross pollination of ideas around key academic themes in a multicultural and multilingual educational sphere. These perspective promote education as the ultimate equalizer of peoples across the globe and allows for the training of students who can be receptive of all peoples wherever they may work, live or study in the future.
- **Equity and Equality:** The University is culturally welcoming and has an internationally focused approach to staff and students. It endeavors to create an environment that is receptive of all national, regional and international staff and students in all its programs of study.

2. Building international networks and strategic partnerships

In line with the University guidelines aforementioned the University has undertaken to build international collaboration across national, regional and regional domains. This has been done by joining a number of networks across the globe which make the implementation of the internationalization policy a reality. On this basis the University has undertaken the following to enhance its networks and partnerships :

- ✓ The University is committed to education and research, especially to international cooperation in research and teaching.
- ✓ The University also devotes significant attention to the cooperation with related universities in Africa, Europe, North America, Asia, and Latin America.
- ✓ The University collaborates with a number of local, regional, and international institutions including professional bodies, which include: The Consortium of Zambian Medical Universities (CZMU), The Zambia Medical Association (ZMA), Southern Africa Regional Universities Association (SARUA), Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), Association of African Universities (AAU), Southern African Nordic Centre (SANORD), and Association of African Business Schools (AABS).

Through the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Publications) the University has centralized the University structure that supports the implementation in all the schools of this internationalization policy and framework.

3. Areas of internationalization activity at the University

The efforts of the University directed towards the development of internationalization are focused on four areas of action in accordance with the principles and the described geographical framework:

A. Regional and international research area

Science and research have been taking place for a long time at an international level. Most researchers establish contacts with colleagues in their areas of interest through conferences and meetings, while institutional networks encourage further exchanges. Internationalization of research funding is a huge turning point for the university:

- **National:** National funding agencies are increasing requiring research grants to have a regional and international character. The University has positioned itself to achieve these collaborations in funding for research which is cross cutting, national regional and international

- **Regional:** Funding through the regional bodies such as the African union and subregional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have increasingly promoted a requirement for research to be regional and international. The University therefore promotes all research projects in the School to have a regional and international team of researchers.
- **International:** Major funding of grants and research on the international fund platforms comes from the European Union, the National Institutes of Health of the United States, the German Development Fund , the NORDIC funds, the Swedish International Fund. The British Government DFID funds and USAID. These funds require grants and research to demonstrate international collaboration of north to south nature. In line with this the University has undertaken several partnerships over the years to enhance its capacity to network internationally to achieve the standards set by these international funders of consultancy and research world wide.

B. International mobility in research and science

International mobility staff mobility is key tool for the University to achieve its internationalization policy. This mobility of staff and students has been undertaken national, regional and internationally.

The University supports staff and student research to be involved in collaborative research across national, regional and international boundaries. The University makes available resources for students and staff to attend national, regional and international conferences as a means of networking. It also through the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Publications) the creation of data bases which provide linkages to research networks which support staff and student mobility.

The University takes special interest to participate in regional and international mobility programmers, through its various networks. These mobility programs all staff and students to gain exposure, experience and necessary skills in different international academic environments

- **Welcome culture**

Nationally a government policy to promote national, regional and international migration has a culture of welcome to all students and staff from different countries. The regional policy of SADC to promote the provision of 10% places to students within the regional countries has also promoted this environment. The Dean of Students at the University affairs promotes the priority accommodation of international and regional students. In addition the Human Resource Policy promotes the support of regional and international staff and students in obtaining work and study visa.

- **Internationalization of Training at the University**

The promotion of English as the medium of instruction in all the training institutions in Zambia has created an environment of internationalization of the training. The University has a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi religious approach to education which has attracted a international spectrum of staff and students. The advent of covid-19 has also promoted a wide network of international faculty stations in various part of the world who are able to provide virtual teaching to students.