

# Bauhaus-Universität Weimar internationalisation strategy 2021-2025

## Preamble

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is a diverse international university. More than 25% of our students and over 40% of our doctoral candidates are international, and with around 250 partnerships in Europe and across the world, European and internationally oriented research projects, networks and transfer relationships, a permanent programme to internationalise administration<sup>1</sup>, as well as a consistently high position in the DAAD<sup>2</sup> funding rankings, the university already boasts an impressive level of internationality and global networking. From the very beginning, individuals from a broad range of cultures have shaped the university and its past institutions in the historic city of Weimar. Ideas that receive global attention have been and are still being developed here. True to this ideal and embedded in an international self-identity, the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar has stakeholders conducting interdisciplinary collaborations in architecture and urbanism, civil and environmental engineering, art and design, media studies, computer science, and management. Researchers, artists and designers work together with their students to develop transferable solutions for designing current and future living spaces.

The internationalisation of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar stems from the Bauhaus tradition, the tasks of a university (section 5 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act ThürHG), the goal and performance agreements with the Thuringian Ministry (2020-2025) and the pursuit of scientific, technical, artistic, design and administrative quality whilst making meaningful use of the university's resources. The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar supports the institutional structures and processes of internationalisation across all levels and provides targeted assistance in procuring additional resources that can be used to implement pioneering internationalisation projects in research, teaching and administration.

At the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, internationalisation is understood as an ongoing process that pervades every structural unit, incorporates international and intercultural aspects of teaching, research and administration, and needs to be conducted strategically from both a specialist and a geographical perspective. Within this context, the internationalisation strategy serves as a higher-level unifying element for a heterogeneous, diversified university with four designated faculties. It formulates the internationalisation objectives for the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, provides guidelines for the implementation process, sets overarching measures for internationalisation and is updated every five years.

## The goal of internationalisation

The university's internationalisation serves to promote and strengthen its profile, the open-minded outlook of its members, and the quality of teaching, research, transfer and administration.

The university's internationalisation helps to prepare students, graduate students and staff for work in international research communities and for the challenges of a globalised labour market. It also helps to train people whose thoughts and actions are not limited by national and economic interests and who actively engage in civil society.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uni-weimar.de/en/university/international/for-administrative-staff/admint/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.uni-weimar.de/fileadmin/user/uni/hauptseiten/International/PDF-Dateien/Statistiken/2021-03-29\\_Uebersicht\\_DAAD\\_Foerderstatistik\\_2005-2019.pdf](https://www.uni-weimar.de/fileadmin/user/uni/hauptseiten/International/PDF-Dateien/Statistiken/2021-03-29_Uebersicht_DAAD_Foerderstatistik_2005-2019.pdf)

The university's internationalisation creates a respectful international environment for all university members, professionally interested parties, partners and visitors.

Internationalisation measures have established the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar as a hub of international competence networks, having contributed significantly to their success and configuration.

## **Internationalisation guidelines**

The following guidelines are taken into account when determining and implementing the steps of the internationalisation process at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar:

### **I. International stakeholders**

Internationality stems from an inner conviction in all university members and is a mentality. The university is seeking to make internationality a focal point of its culture, as it recognises the significant potential of cultural diversity and international networking. International stakeholders are characterised by their open approach; they recognise the potential afforded by difference and cultural diversity, and understand the opportunities and challenges that internationalisation brings. This requires foreign language skills, global networking and intercultural sensitivity. The university strives to get all university members involved as international stakeholders and to help them develop the aforementioned skills. Special services are provided to meet the particular needs of international teachers and students in Weimar. Current and former university members are viewed as part of a global network.

### **II. International research and development**

Research at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is completed according to international standards. In doing so, the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is aware of its potential for pioneering research and development and the resulting responsibilities. By actively fostering state of the art developments and conducting fundamental and application-oriented research in all areas, the university is shaping an understanding of research that focuses on excellence, innovation, transferability and sustainability. The university promotes and supports international research collaborations as the driving force behind transferable, top-quality and innovative research and its visibility. This is strengthened via targeted procurement of third-party research funding.

### **III. International studies and doctoral degrees**

Degree and doctoral programmes have an international orientation taking the culture of the subject area into account. To ensure that an international perspective becomes common practice, the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar supports international teaching collaborations and works with suitable partner institutions to establish international study programmes. In addition to systematically improving the international skills of students, doctoral candidates, teachers and employees, this also helps to cultivate strategic partnerships. Particular emphasis is placed on intercultural learning and its integration into specialist teaching, as well as on acquiring and developing foreign language skills.

### **IV. International partnerships**

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is strengthening and developing its active involvement in international networks and establishing international networks with suitable specialist partners and institutions from the worlds of theory and practice. All those involved benefit from international partnerships through the joint development of methods and approaches that demonstrate a high level of transferability, flexibility and resilience to crises. Sustainable, future-oriented solutions are thus developed, providing optimum support for the innovative potential and competitiveness of all those involved.

## **V. International mobility**

International mobility is a central part of successful international collaboration. Direct personal contact is just as essential for specialist discussion as immediate encounters with culture for intercultural experience and personality development. The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar encourages all of its members to get involved in mobility projects, which it supports by obtaining suitable third-party funding and providing administrative resources. At the same time, the university is seeking to reduce international mobility's harmful environmental impact and is taking relevant steps to this effect. Digital collaboration formats supplement international mobility, boost its effectiveness and can also replace it in some places.

## **VI. Digitalisation in international cooperation**

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is a modern university that values in-person attendance and seeks to make its teaching, research and administrative activities more flexible in terms of time, location and finances with the use of innovative approaches. Digital collaboration formats are being developed and put to use in conjunction with international partners.

## **VII. International administration**

Supporting and developing adaptable and modern administrative structures is a key requirement for successfully enabling and implementing international collaborative projects in research, teaching and transfer. International administration requires participation, (further) training and the provision of technical infrastructure for technical and administrative staff. This helps to optimise organisational and administrative conditions and to promote the university's global network.

## **VIII. Internationality and diversity**

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar understands that diversity offers significant potential to enable and enrich its work. Firstly, the university works to facilitate the integration of university members who come to Weimar from outside of Germany, in particular when it comes to the university's self-management decision-making processes. Secondly, it ensures that internationality is accessible to all university members according to their area of work, regardless of their social situation. The university breaks down barriers and enables everyone to get fully involved.

## **IX. Internationality as potential for civil society**

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar views itself as an institution with socio-political responsibility, whose internationality significantly shapes the diversity of the city and the region. It assumes this responsibility by aiding international students, doctoral candidates and employees with their integration and actively developing their intercultural and civil society contributions to the city and region.

## **Bauhaus-Universität Weimar internationalisation measures 2021-2025**

With a specific subject profile and its four faculties (Architecture and Urbanism, Civil Engineering, Art and Design, and Media), the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is following in the tradition of the historic Bauhaus and its aspiration to re-examine the structure of our built living environment using innovative technology and design, and taking socio-political elements into account. Modern challenges in this area include the pressing issues of climate neutrality and sustainability, digitalisation and participation, and responsible co-existence in society and with the natural environment.

These issues can only be tackled in collaboration with various subject areas in science, art and design. Ensuring this requires firstly establishing interdisciplinary collaboration as the guiding thread for Bauhaus-Universität Weimar activities, and secondly, creating international partnerships that ensure that research has a breadth and depth that is translated into teaching. The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar already has a network of 250 international partner universities, thus ensuring a lively exchange of students and creating the opportunity for numerous joint projects.

In keeping with this approach and in order to systematically make use of the synergies in international cooperation, the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is planning to launch and establish a multilateral European network of partner universities under the umbrella of the *»New European Bauhaus«*. Thematically, this focuses in particular on issues of sustainability in built living environments. In addition to technical and planning aspects, it also incorporates the cultural issues of designing a future society. The aim is to work with suitable partner universities and jointly develop the various aspects of the topic as comprehensively as possible in research, teaching and transfer.

The following specific measures are planned for the 2021-2025 period:

### **1. Developing a multilateral university network in Europe with a focus on teaching**

One particular focus in developing the multilateral thematic *»New European Bauhaus«* network is in the area of teaching; the goal of the network is to enable broad exchanges between students, thus promoting collaborative, international teaching and learning. The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar's services are supplemented by partner universities' expertise, and synergies are created by working together. The university is seeking to establish a double degree programme, which would allow students to plan an international study path. A range of online courses fed by all of the universities within the network will allow students to take courses at partner universities, thus enabling the awarding of *»micro credits«* (i.e. ECTS representing the course's scope) to supplement their home university's teaching activities. This interlacing within the partnership network will create an international and in some cases shared campus, ensuring the quality of teaching and enabling flexible educational paths that respond to society's current challenges, boost student figures in Weimar, and improve skilled recruitment for the region of Thuringia.

### **2. Connectors between the online learning environments (OLEs) of participating universities**

In terms of teaching collaborations with international partner universities, digital services and blended learning formats will also be increasingly put to use. For this to operate effectively, an interface needs to be created to link the online learning environments of the universities involved. This should enable easy access to online courses at the partner university. Administrative processes, such as (visitor) registration or certification and invoicing for examinations, must be incorporated into this.

### **3. Establishing a welcoming culture and support service for visiting researchers**

Increasing international cooperation in terms of teaching makes it necessary to create a welcoming culture and provide support services for visiting researchers. Previously, central services were only available for international students and doctoral candidates; for visiting researchers, this task was the sole responsibility of the inviting researcher or artist at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, supported by the relevant faculty when necessary.

By 2025, the aim is to develop a central support service that advises visiting researchers on right-of-residence questions, helps them to find accommodation and assists with the necessary administrative processes.

#### **4. Transforming intercultural awareness units from in-person formats into virtual and blended learning formats**

Interculturality plays a key role in international collaboration in teaching, but also in integrating international students into the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar's academic operations. Throughout the past years, the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar has established formats to raise intercultural awareness that are aimed at students, offered on a regular basis, and tailored to various situations – in classes, or before or after a stay abroad. The increasing use of digital formats, both for teaching and for the process of welcoming international students, often enables initial intercultural encounters to take place in virtual spaces. The formats that have already been created for IT-supported implementation therefore need to be transformed. This process relates to both didactic elements and their technical implementation.

#### **5. Attracting international students to Bachelor degree programmes**

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is striving to increase the proportion of international students in its Bachelor degree programmes, particularly in STEM subjects. The university's increased visibility gained by its participation in a multilateral European partner network (see measure 1) will also be used for this purpose. Setting up double degree programmes within the network will be explored with this goal in mind. Since 2021, the university has also been implementing the »study bridges« education programme in conjunction with the Goethe Institute and the DAAD. This programme is aimed at international, non-EU high-school graduates who have already prepared in their home country for STEM studies in Germany, but do not have direct access to German universities via their home country's educational systems. The university is tackling the challenges of supporting and integrating the university's new target group of very young international students that is emerging from this programme.

#### **6. Developing and consolidating Career Services for international students**

Career Services supports international students by offering counselling on internships, student jobs or entering the world of work after graduating from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. Via needs-oriented bilingual events, consulting services and central corporate contact events, they answer questions about the local and national labour market and provide support with application processes. These central services that provide professional orientation for employment, business start-ups and academic careers should improve the transfer quota for international students and help to secure specialist talent for the region. Services for international students will be developed and secured via existing company collaborations, chambers of commerce and industry, business development networks, the Federal Employment Agency and professional associations for architects, engineers or designers.

#### **7. Third-party funding applications**

The university is dependent on additional funding to implement the measures set out under numbers 1-5. Third-party funding will therefore be sought in a more systematic, targeted way. Specifically, applications will be submitted under the following programmes:

- New European Bauhaus (European Commission call for proposals, autumn 2021)
- European universities (EU call for proposals, call autumn 2022)
- University internationalisation pact (TMWWDG call for proposals, spring 2021)
- Erasmus Mundus joint degree programmes (EU call for proposals via the DAAD National Agency, recurrent call for proposals, application expected in 2022 or 2023)
- Stibet doctoral candidates (DAAD, application expected in 3rd quarter of 2021)

Other applications for third-party funding will be made as required and based on what is available. This will be done in consultation with the University Directorate and the faculty deans.

## Resolution

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar's internationalisation strategy defines the overarching goals for the university's internationalisation. Cross-faculty initiatives will pool strengths and create synergies. At the same time, the internationalisation strategy takes into account the variety of internationality experienced, the many forms of personal commitment on the part of university members, and the numerous decentralised initiatives; the goal is to expand the university's scope of action and increase their opportunities to set their own priorities. Other measures, in particular regarding research and transfer, can be added by the university's committees during the strategy period.

The internationalisation strategy was recommended to the University President by the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar Senate on 7 April 2021. The International Office will coordinate the implementation of the planned measures in consultation with the University Directorate and the responsible departments. The strategy applies up to and including 2025. From 2026 onwards, based on what has already been achieved and taking current developments into account, the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar's strategic internationalisation will be extended with an updated version of the internationalisation strategy.

Weimar, 12/04/2021

Prof. Dr. Winfried

Speitkamp, President