



*Approved by*

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# **Internationalization Strategy of Batumi Navigation Teaching University**

## **2024 – 2030**

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## Introduction



Internationalization of education is one of the main priorities of strategic development of Batumi Navigation Teaching University (hereinafter referred to as the Teaching University, or BNTU). The Teaching University understands the demands of the education market and supports the consideration of international experience in educational programmes and the strengthening of this direction, which includes the mobility of students and academic staff, joint/exchange educational programmes, international cooperation and implementation of research projects.





This document has been developed in order for the Batumi Navigation Teaching University to implement an effective and consistent policy of the international cooperation and internationalization process, which will also make it possible to realize the priority announced by the development plans of the current (2019-2025) and next period (2024-2030) and by the mission.

The Strategy is a supporting document of the 2024-2030 Strategic Development Plan of the Batumi Navigation Teaching University, which provides for the effective planning, implementation and subsequent monitoring of activities related to the university internationalization process. The strategy is based on the University's 2024-2030 Development Plan and mission. It takes into account the main paradigms of the educational policy of the European Higher Education Area, known to the public as the Bologna process. Internationalization and promotion of mobility are important parts of the Bologna process; therefore they are important components of BNTU Strategic Development Plan.

BNTU International Relations Service is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the activities provided for by the Internationalization Strategy.

## Batumi Navigation Teaching University vision, mission and values

<b>Our vision</b>	The University's vision is based on strategic objectives ensuring that BNTU remains a dynamic and forward-looking institution and a recognized brand in the industry that drives positive changes, supports institutional sustainability, operational efficiency and continuous improvement in the quality of teaching and learning.
<b>Our mission</b>	The University's mission is to provide lifelong high-quality education to master's students/ students /vocational students that develops the knowledge and skills they need to pursue a successful career in the ever-changing local and international market in the field of trade, maritime and logistics. By implementing academic/vocational/certification high-quality programmes and research projects, enhancing internationalization, student-centered learning, and creating a safe, modern academic environment, BNTU achieves a high level of graduate responsibility, discipline, integrity, and leadership.
<b>Our values</b>	 Diversity, equity and inclusion;  Unity, freedom of choice, decision-making, speech and expression;

-  Professionalism, academic freedom, responsibility and integrity;
-  Involvement in society;
-  Social responsibility;
-  Willingness to innovations.

## Strategic tasks of Batumi Navigation Teaching University towards internationalization:

**Goal:** Integration into the international scientific and educational area; exchange information with foreign partners and establishment of stable education system in BNTU.

**Expected outcome:** BNTU involvement into the international educational area; formation of continuous education system in BNTU and conducting the educational process taking into account international trends and innovative approaches.

**Ensuring realization of goals:** Fulfillment of each strategic goal of the university is ensured by the introduction of appropriate mechanisms and the necessary resources (financial, human, material-technical).

BNTU **internationalization** implies integration into the international educational, research and industry space, including compliance of BNTU educational programmes with international standards and harmonization with the programmes of the foreign partner-institutions, implementation of exchange programs, involvement of foreign students in education process, invitation of experts for the purpose of involvement in the education process, conduction of trainings in BNTU, sharing state-of-the-art knowledge and best practice, international internships, involvement of BNTU academic staff in the international research activity etc.

BNTU considers internationalization one of the mechanisms of promotion of academic staff research activity - integration of BNTU into the international educational and research area makes possible participation of academic staff in scientific conferences conducted in BNTU by /with the participation of partner-institutions, involvement in international programs/projects, sharing modern approaches etc.

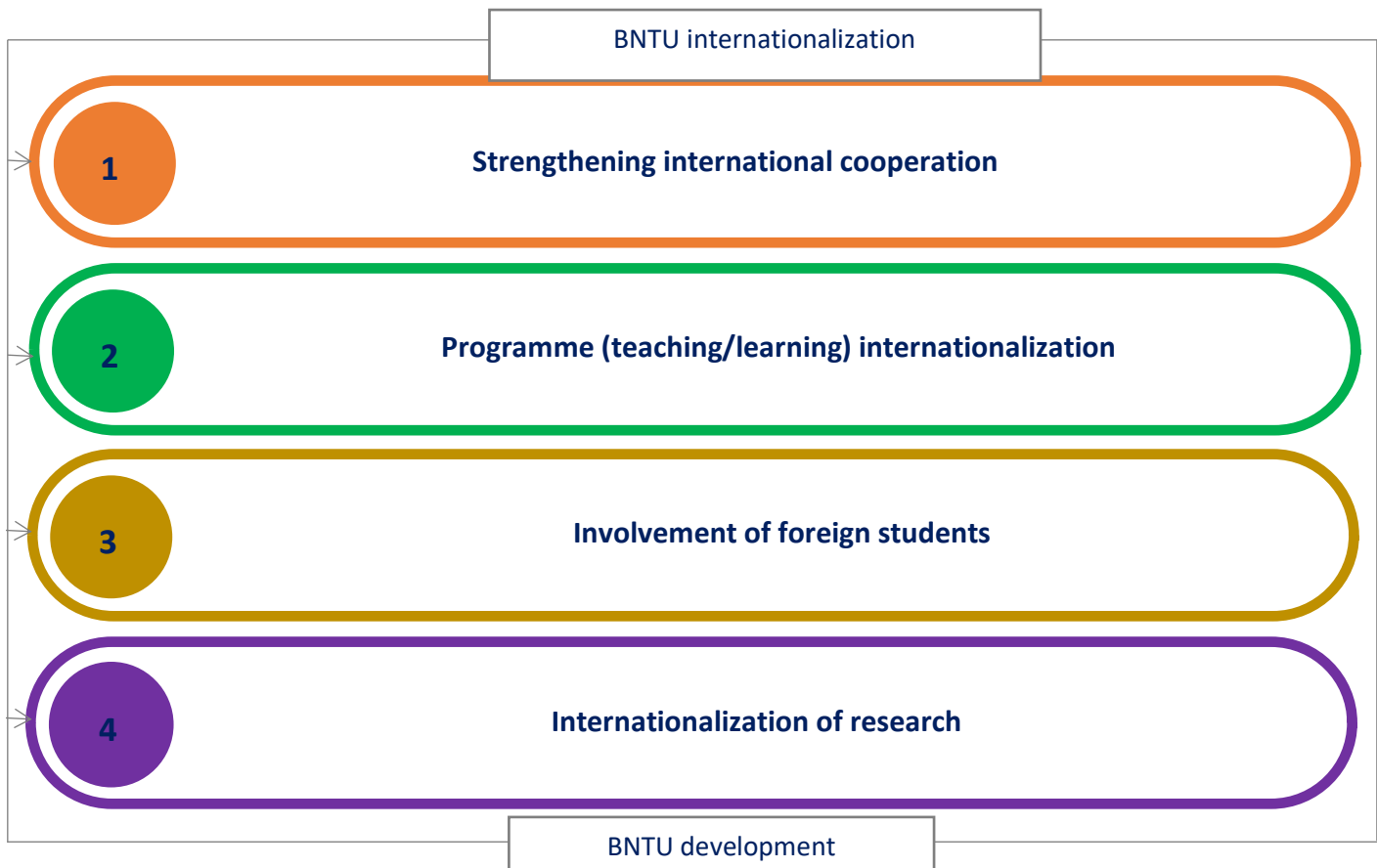
**Development of international research cooperation** - Development of research activities means the following: strengthening cooperation with field organizations, international research and educational institutions and effective usage of opportunities; staff research activity in priority areas (participation in research and field conferences, projects etc.; publication of works in scientific peer-reviewed magazines; publication of scientific papers). Promotion of staff scientific activities; support of activity of students (preparation of students for the participation in conferences, provision of assistance in preparation of theses etc.). The following are of high priority of the international scientific cooperation: involvement of BNTU academic staff in international scientific conferences, workshops, etc., participation in joint projects/programs, increase in number of publications in international peer-reviewed magazines, implementation of joint projects with the representatives of foreign partner institutions and provision of possibilities for their commercialization,

increase in number of international research events in BNTU (conferences, forums etc.), creation of image of respectable partner of BNTU in the international scientific space.

**Batumi Navigation Teaching University set four strategic goals by the internationalization strategy:**

1. Strengthening international cooperation;
2. Programme (teaching/learning) internationalization;
3. Involvement of foreign students;
4. Internationalization of research.

Schematically BNTU internationalization vision may be represented as follows:



To achieve internationalization goals, Batumi Navigation Teaching University pursues its policy in the following directions:

1. Ensures development and strengthening of international cooperation.	Goal 1
2. Provides institutional strengthening and awareness raising at the international level.	Goal 1
3. Promotes internationalization of educational programmes, development of international projects, English-language programmes and other international activities.	Goal 2
4. Supports and develops the mobility of students, administrative, academic, scientific and invited staff, from BNTU, as well as the staff mobility from foreign universities.	Goal 2
5. Attracts foreign students and integrates them into the university space.	Goal 3
6. Supports the implementation of joint research and innovation projects with international partners.	Goal 4
7. Supports the internationalization of the institution management, which ensures the integration of the university structural units and academic staff into international educational processes.	Goal 1;2;4

### **1. Ensures development and strengthening of international cooperation**

- 1.1. The University is constantly expanding the network of international cooperation with educational institutions of the appropriate profile around the world; In order to find new partners, BNTU constantly participates in various forums, discussions, educational weeks, conferences, etc.
- 1.2. Maintains constant communication with existing partners, shares information about university news, current and planned events, and offers them to participate in the activities/projects/events planned by the university.
- 1.3. Constantly receives information about news, current and planned events of partner educational institutions and offers to participate in their planned activities/projects/events.

### **2. Provides institutional strengthening and awareness raising at the international level**

- 2.1. In order to strengthen the institutional profile, the university and the academic staff are members of international sectoral associations and professional networks.
- 2.2. In order to increase awareness, the university participates in international educational exhibitions and symposium.

### **3. Promotes internationalization of educational programmes, development of international projects, English-language programmes and other international activities**




- 3.1. Provides development of educational programmes taking into consideration of the best international practice;
  - 3.2. Involvement of foreign lecturers/vocational teachers in educational activity and programme development;
  - 3.3. Increasing in number of English-language study courses of academic programmes;
  - 3.4. Uses foreign literature in educational process;
  - 3.5. Carries out continuous updating of educational programmes and training courses and ensures adaptation of teaching/learning outcomes to the requirements of the international market.
  - 3.6. Invites international speakers to conduct public lectures, workshops and webinars within the framework of the relevant programme.
- 4. Supports and develops the mobility of students, administrative, academic, scientific and invited staff, from BNTU, as well as the staff mobility from foreign universities**
- 4.1. Cooperates with universities of the appropriate profile around the world, within the framework of which it implements exchange programs (outgoing/incoming) for students, academic and administrative staff;
  - 4.2. Actively uses international mobility funding sources, such as ERASMUS+;
  - 4.3. Hosts academic, administrative staff, researchers financed within the Fulbright and other programs for teaching and research purposes;
  - 4.4. Supports international mobility by offering/providing academic and administrative services to students and staff (enrollment procedures, visa support, health insurance, provision of housing, academic advising, etc.);
  - 4.5. Communicates information about mobility support programs, short-term projects, competitions and other offers to students, administrative, academic, scientific and invited staff;
  - 4.6. Annually organizes an internal institutional English language proficiency test for students wishing to use international mobility, academic, administrative and invited staff;
- 5. Attracts foreign students and integrates them into the university space**
- 5.1. Ensures attraction of foreign students;
  - 5.2. BNTU plans and implements a campaign to attract foreign students. Participates in international exhibitions, forums, summits, plans individual exhibitions in selected countries. Participates in various international events to increase awareness of the programmes. Publishes information about English-language programmes on international electronic portals, social networks, magazines. Distributes information brochures through embassies, partners and other communication channels;
  - 5.3. BNTU recruits foreign students through international agents/intermediary agents. For this purpose, it signs a student recruitment agreement with international or local agents/intermediary agents;

- 5.4. Offers support services related to the academic process to foreign students. Also, administrative support in finding housing, going through visa procedures, preparing enrollment documents, insurance and other issues;
  - 5.5. Offers the opportunity to study the Georgian language;
  - 5.6. In order to integrate foreign students and create an intercultural environment, BNTU plans various events such as reception parties, excursions, educational tours, competitions, sports activities and other extracurricular activities. Offers integration into student life by joining university clubs or teams/groups;
- 6. Supports the implementation of joint research and innovation projects with international partners**
- 6.1. Cooperates with foreign universities and research centers;
  - 6.2. Supports the growth of mobility of scientists;
  - 6.3. Hosts and participates in international scientific conferences, forums, symposiums and other events;
  - 6.4. Publishes scientific papers in international scientific journals;
  - 6.5. Finances the participation of academic staff and scientists in conferences and international research projects;
- 7. Supports the internationalization of the institution management, which ensures the integration of the university structural units and academic staff into international educational processes**
- 7.1. Within the framework of existing administrative mobility (incoming/outgoing) promotes the study of the best international management practices of partner universities and integration, as required;
  - 7.2. Carries out modernization of the educational process management system in accordance with international experience;
  - 7.3. Provides promotion of qualification improvement of administrative staff for the purpose of compliance of the educational process and student services with the international standards;
  - 7.4. Takes care of the development of competencies necessary for the integration of researchers in the international scientific space and offers relevant trainings/master classes.
  - 7.5. Offers staff training in foreign language skills and other necessary directions;
  - 7.6. Delivers information to the staff about various international internships or short-term training programs and supports their involvement.

### **Monitoring and evaluation of Batumi Navigation Teaching University internationalization**

Monitoring and evaluation of BNTU internationalization strategy is carried out in the following directions:

-  Teaching and learning (students, faculties, programmes);





-  Involvement index;
-  Management;
-  Survey;

For the monitoring plan of the represented strategy, see Annex 1.

### **Reporting and monitoring of the internationalization processes**

Responsibility for the effective operation of the internationalization strategy lies with the international relations service, which submits the annual report (at the end of the calendar year) to the Head of Administration and BNTU community.

Annual report of the international relations service is based on the following:

-  Interviews;
-  Reports on participation in mobility/international projects;
-  Evaluation of events, provided for by the plan of activities;
-  Evaluation of events, implemented apart from those, planned during the calendar year.