

Bifröst University Policy on International Activities

Bifröst University is committed to active participation in the international academic community. The objectives of this policy aim to integrate global perspectives into educational offerings and enhance research and learning through international exchange and collaboration. Bifröst University strives to provide students and staff access to a variety of international collaborations, including exchange opportunities, internships, and research partnerships, and create a culture of international encounters that matter. As a leader in digital education, Bifröst University emphasizes the development of opportunities for digital learning exchanges in collaboration with partner institutions worldwide. By actively engaging with the OpenEU University Alliance and other global initiatives, Bifröst University is dedicated to enriching the educational experience and broadening the horizons for both students and employees. Bifröst University educates people for positions of impact and responsibility in the economy and the society, for example by acknowledging the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in all its educational offerings.

International Learning and Student Mobilities

- Every student at Bifröst University will be encouraged to participate in international activities, such as exchange studies at partner universities, international internships, blended intensive programs (BIPs), and study trips and excursions.
- Students are informed about opportunities for exchange studies during orientation days and during on-campus sessions.
- Each study program will offer distance teaching in cooperation with other distance teaching universities.
- All students are offered a course in advanced English for academics to enhance their ability to work in an international environment.
- Students should have the opportunity to take a course that includes a short site visit abroad in relation to the topic of the study.
- Credit study-abroad programmes, short or long, are always an option and are appropriately recognised in a student's learning record.
- In each study programme there is at least one course taught in English each semester.

- As part of the OpenEU University Alliance, Bifröst University will actively participate in OpenEU mobility projects, including student mobility programs, internships, conferences, and employee exchanges.

International interaction is part of all learning within Bifröst University regardless of the students' possibilities to take part in physical international mobilities. Other forms of internationalization are realised, for example, through visiting teachers and virtual learning experiences organised jointly with foreign universities.

Bifröst University policy for exchange students

- International officers at Bifröst University will be available to provide advice and support to both enrolled students and employees participating in programs and activities abroad.
- Bifröst University will welcome exchange students from partner institutions who meet the university's entry requirements, ensuring they have access to the same learning opportunities as enrolled Bifröst University students.
- Incoming exchange students will receive information at the beginning of the term from student counsellors, Academic Services, and faculty members regarding the support available to them throughout their studies, including assistance for any cultural or administrative challenges they may encounter.
- Bifröst University will offer courses on Icelandic Language and Culture for incoming exchange students.

Education with an International Focus

- Teachers' exchange should be an integral part of the institution's activities.
- All employees of Bifröst University, both academic and administrative, are encouraged to engage in international programs, whether through exchange opportunities at partner institutions or by participating in international collaboration projects and conferences.

- All teachers are offered options to participate in teacher exchange, which gives the opportunity to expand personal networks, strengthen cooperation between institutions and learn the best practices.
- All staff in administration and support is encouraged to take part in job shadowing and visit universities abroad, particularly within EADTU (The European Association of Distance Teaching Universities) and the OpenEU-networks.
- The possibilities of creating joint courses and study programmes with foreign universities should be actively investigated.

International Research and Development

- Bifröst University belongs to the international scientific community and takes international collaboration to be a crucial means of enhancing the quality of research.
- The University urges academic staff to foster international research collaboration, seek project funding from international sources, such as EU- and Nordic Funds, and to publish collaborative works with foreign academics.
- Bifröst University aims at welcoming visiting researchers and international guest lecturers on a regular basis and takes part on the research activities in the OpenEU European University Alliance.
- Cooperation through the EADTU (The European Association of Distance Teaching Universities) and OpenEU European University Alliance forms the core part of development-oriented international activities of Bifröst University.
- The International Office purposefully works towards establishing cooperation with companies and their endeavours in the international arena, e.g. through EEA Grants development fund and Europe Enterprise Network.
- The International office together with Research Management facilitate opportunities for research collaborations through various mobility and collaborative frameworks, such as COST, Erasmus+, and Nordplus.
- Bifröst University is committed to responsible internationalization and takes appropriate measures to ensure research security.

International Office and the Research Management keep track of the scope of the University's internationalization. Each study programme is reviewed on a cyclical basis. The policy for international activities and the above specified international policy for learning and teaching, shall be considered during such reviews. The International Department specifies measurable objectives for international activities, including participation of students, teachers and other staff in the international sphere.

Approved at the Framkvæmdastjórn meeting 10.12.2024
