**Strategy for the Internationalization of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science in 2016-2021**

Internationalization has become a dominant worldwide tendency in the development of higher education, a confirmation of the functioning of the civilization of knowledge and education. The global education and research space is emerging, in which not only universities but also states compete with one another while the quality of the teaching offer, the ability to attract foreign students and highly qualified scholarly personnel, internationalization of the results of conducted research and involvement in the teaching process at foreign universities have become the symbols of civilizational attraction and modernity.

The Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) Faculty of Political Science cannot be absent from these processes. Internationalization is becoming both a challenge and an opportunity. It is a challenge and an opportunity to broaden the scope of the teaching offer, to enhance the quality of conducted research, to enhance the quality and innovation of the teaching process, to improve the quality of the Faculty’s infrastructure, library equipment, and the administrative service to students and university teachers, it is also an opportunity for the UMCS Faculty of Political Science to be recognizable and to create its brand image in Poland and in the international environment.

There are external and internal factors conducive to the process of internationalization of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science and utilization of the resultant opportunity. The internal factors include: 1) the dynamic development of the research personnel who know foreign languages and conduct high-standard research, and consequently, the high quality of the teaching offer; 2) previous achievements and experience in international teaching and research cooperation; 3) broadening the number of the Faculty’s foreign partners, 4) expanding the offer of teaching in foreign languages. Measures to internationalize the Faculty are consistent with the mission of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and the mission of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science.

The external factors cover: 1) Poland’s membership of the European Union and other regional organizations, for example the Visegrad Group, which enables gaining funds to support the internationalization of research and education; 2) geopolitical situation enabling development of scientific and teaching collaboration with partners – also belonging to the priority directions of our state – in the post-Soviet area and in the Far East; 3) involvement of the City of Lublin authorities in the internationalization of universities with special emphasis on the “eastern competence” formula. A significant success, despite the continuing dominance of students from the post-Soviet area, is the constant diversification and expansion of the geographical origin of foreign students; 4) the relatively low cost of studying in Poland as compared with Western countries and the relatively low cost of living in Lublin in comparison with other Polish cities; 5) the consistency of internationalization activities of the UMCS Political Science Faculty with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education document “Program for the Internationalization of Higher Education” of 2015.

1. **Strategic Goals of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science**

The strategic goals of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science concerning internationalization are as follows:

1. **development the Faculty’s research potential** by strengthening international scientific cooperation;
2. **internationalization of the teaching process** and the Faculty’s teaching offer;
3. **development of international skills and competences of students**;
4. **raising external funding** for research and teaching;
5. **increase recruitment of students,** including foreign students.

**II. Specific Objectives of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science**

**1. Internationalization Management**

It is necessary to create, implement and ensure the efficient functioning of the **management system** for internationalization of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science. Firstly, set up the **Team for Internationalization**, consisting of persons responsible, inter alia, for coordination of specific internationalization measures, such as the Erasmus Plus Program, the raising of grants for research and the teaching process, recruitment of foreign students, and also of other persons with vital experience for internationalization. The range of the Team’s responsibilities should also include the review of the Faculty’s resources in internationalization, monitoring the progress of the process, the possibilities of funding and preparation of materials for the Faculty’s Deans and Council.

Secondly, it is necessary to develop **strategies** and organizational solutions serving **the Faculty’s** **communication related to internationalization,** with special emphasis on information circulation, visual identification, Webpage, presence in the social media, preparation of promotional materials, devising plans of information and promotion measures, or cyclical promotional events, e.g. annual meetings of international partners.

**2. International Partners**

The internationalization of research and educational process requires foreign partners. To this end, it is necessary, firstly, to **expand and consolidate international partnerships of the Faculty,** and to **create a system of gaining new ones.**  Regarding the latter, it seems justifiable, inter alia, to use individual scholarly contacts of the teachers for the needs of the whole Faculty, to introduce and analyze reports on individual scientific visits from the perspective of possible future institutional cooperation, to constantly monitor the possibilities of cooperation, or plan participation in ‘networking events’, etc. A significant element of the academic culture of the Faculty’s scholars receiving grants for academic visits abroad should be presentation of information and proposals about the possibility of cooperation with potential new partners but within the priorities defined in the present strategy. Secondly, it is necessary to plan a system of utilizing international partnerships for the development of the Faculty, taking into special account the possibility of international accreditations, creating new ones or joining the existing international teaching or research consortiums, and joining other international cooperation networks of partner universities.

The Faculty’s priorities in this area should be:

1. define the g**roup of strategic partners, which** shouldinclude universities/faculties and research institutions constantly cooperating with the UMCS Faculty of Political Science in the field of research and teaching;
2. create new ones or join the existing **research or teaching consortiums** in order, inter alia, to constantly cooperate in raising funds for research, the teaching process, for the creation of certification systems, etc.;
3. participation of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science **in** academic and university **networks,** and in the networks of individual course programs;
4. cooperation of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science **with international organizations** that pursue international research questions and problems of higher education, such as the UNDP, the Council of Europe, the Visegrad Group, and particularly the International Visegrad Fund;
5. establish constant cooperation of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science **with foundations supporting higher education,** for example the Fulbright Foundation, the Stefan Batory Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, or the Schuman Foundation, and others;
6. define the strategic geographical **regions of interest** from the standpoint of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science and intensify the search for partners there (e.g. the area of Eastern Europe, the Visegrad Group, Far East, Western Europe, and North and South Americas);
7. develop the **international internship** program for students, and partnerships with international internship providers;
8. develop the cooperation – especially in connection with the teaching process and international internship - with ‘non-academic’ entities such as civil society organizations (NGOs), transnational corporations, and others.
9. **The Internationalization of Research**

Research, one of the duties of university teachers, should serve to enhance the prestige and position of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science in the international environment, and at the same time it should ensure the high quality of the educational process. The priority directions and forms of activity of the Faculty’s academic personnel are:

a) increase the number of own publications in foreign journals and other publications;

b) participate in research consortiums and in other forms of international research cooperation;

* 1. create or join the existing international research teams in order to conduct research, and apply for funds for it;
  2. increase the individual activity of university researchers/teachers in raising funds for research from foreign foundations or other institutions;
  3. organize academic conferences with a view to making them cyclical and pursuing the topics that will become an element of the research identity of the UMCS Political Science Faculty and make it recognizable in the world;
  4. increase the academic presence of foreign professors at the UMCS Faculty of Political Science;
  5. promote abroad and support the development of internationally known journals published by the UMCS Faculty of Political Science.

**4. The Internationalization of the Educational Offer**

The internationalization of the educational process requires expanding – with the use of the existing achievements – the educational offer for the foreign addressee or the Polish one interested in the international offer. The possible forms of teaching are: a) complete programs of education in English at the Bachelor, Master and doctoral levels; b) teaching modules or individual course programs in foreign languages; c) provision of conditions for studying at foreign partner universities.

The priorities of the internationalization of educational offers are as follows:

1. prepare the educational offer in English at all three levels;

b) expand the range and diversity of geographical directions of partners in the double diploma procedure;

c) seek to increase the number of visiting professors at the UMCS Faculty of Political Science;

c) develop cooperation under the Erasmus Plus Program and enhance its efficacy; in particular, adjust the profile of partner universities to the needs of the Faculty’s students, improve the system of mutual recognition of credits for course subjects, etc.; broaden and constantly enhance the quality and attraction of the list of subjects offered to Erasmus students;

d) individualize the process of education by creating the Independent Study program or the tutoring and coaching system for foreign students, including doctoral students;

e) develop an offer of postgraduate study programs for foreign addressees, including the possibility of organizing them with foreign partners;

f) prepare an offer of and initiate, possibly with the cooperation of foreign partners, regularly organized summer schools in English;

g) consider the possibility – probably in cooperation with the City and Province authorities or with other institutions – of study visits for foreign partners in order to acquaint them with Lublin’s academic character, culture, economy, attractive natural resources, etc.

* 1. **Mobility of Students, University Teachers**

**and Administrative Personnel**

A necessary condition for the internationalization of research and the teaching process is the mobility of university teachers, students but also the administrative service personnel. It is essential to create the **system of stimulation and support for the international mobility** of the three groups at the UMCS Faculty of Political Science. International mobility, raising funds from external sources to finance research at the UMCS Faculty of Political Science should become a permanent feature of the study culture of students and of the research culture of university teachers, while the improvement of competencies by observing experiences of other universities should be a feature of the working culture of the administrative service personnel. Possible forms of activity are the following:

**a) regarding student mobility**: support exchange under the Erasmus and FSS Programs as part of strategic partnership and academic networks, support the internship program of Erasmus Plus, support study visits by student groups under international projects carried out with partner universities;

**b) regarding the mobility of university teachers:** support individual and group study visits, create permanent exchange programs with partner universities, support foreign training courses; encourage individual endeavors to gain research grants from foreign foundations or other institutions in order to fund individual research projects, and encourage joining in international research teams;

**c) regarding the mobility of the administrative service personnel:** support exchange withexperienced partneruniversities, for example using the funds under the Erasmus Plus Program;

**d) instruments of supporting mobility –** it is necessary for each of the foregoing groups to consider and create instruments for supporting international activity such as training courses, workshops, monitoring of funding possibilities, as well as linguistic and organizational support, etc.

### ‘International Space’ of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science

Internationalization, especially of the teaching process, requires the creation, within the UMCS Faculty of Political Science, of organizational conditions, the specific ‘space’ enabling implementation of this process and ensuring its high quality. These conditions, which, however, require the commitment of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science and University authorities, are the following:

a) development of linguistic competencies of students and university teachers;

1. support for Polish students going abroad and foreign students coming to study at the UMCS Faculty of Political Science (counseling, preparatory sessions, etc.);
2. creation of the system of legal services for foreign students that also covers the recruitment process;
3. creation – in the conditions of raising external funds – of a scholarship system for foreign students studying at the UMCS Faculty of Political Science;
4. development of linguistic and intercultural competencies of the administrative personnel involved in servicing foreign students and university teachers, inter alia through workshops, training courses, study visits at partner universities, and the use of mobility programs for the administrative personnel under the Erasmus Plus Program ;
5. development of intercultural competencies of the academic personnel and students of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science;
6. creation of conditions for the socio-cultural integration of foreign students at the UMCS Faculty of Political Science;
7. creation of the system of monitoring the histories of foreign students and maintaining constant contact with them after they finish studies;
8. creation of the program for regular visits of visiting professors, inter alia through cooperation agreements with the Fulbright Commission, Ford Foundation, Civil Society Foundation, etc.;
9. coordinated actions for the ‘international image’ of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science, inter alia through social media, scholarly events such as open lectures in English by well-known personages, and other promotion measures;
10. preparation of the necessary documents, information system, notices on the premises, webpage, etc. in English;
11. adjustment of the library, its book collection and on-line materials to studying and conducting research in English.
    1. **Funding of Internationalization**

The internationalization of research and the teaching process requires financial support, which in turn requires creating a system of constant acquisition of external funds from various sources, taking into special consideration:

1. budgetary sources such as support programs for the internationalization of higher education (Ministry of Science and Higher Education), as well as the National Science Center (NCN) and National Center for Research and Development (NCBR);
2. funds from the European Union for research and the internationalization of higher education;
3. private sponsors, foundations and other international organizations outside the European Union ;
4. cooperation with the City and Province authorities and with other entities.