Preamble

The SRH University for logistics and economics perceives Internationalization as an ongoing process of internationalizing the educational, cultural and social experience of all students and staff of the university. European cooperation and partnerships are integral to this, as are those beyond Europe. Internationalism is critical strategic objective of this university and its commitment to this is described in the Internationalization Concept 2015. Management, staff and students are sensitized to contribute to fulfill this objective. The university is concerned both with knowledge and competence in academic disciplines, and also with the formation and, indeed, the transformation of its students into graduates prepared for making a difference for good in the world. There are three pillars to its international strategy, internationalization, and partnerships.

I. Partnerships

The SRH University for logistics and economics has a number of strategic partnerships with high quality overseas institutions which share the university’s mission and values in a wide range of countries within and beyond Europe. As a founding member of the International Sustainable Logistic Network, the university has binding partnerships with HEI’s in United Kingdom, Spain, Finland, Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Czech Republic. Beyond this, active academic collaboration with HEI’s in USA, India and Indonesia are practiced regularly. The SRH Hamm will continue to extend its collaborations with institutions and academics across the world, and especially extend its global network of partnership with institutions that share its mission and values. A good example of this effort is the advanced stage of on-going discussions and planning process to introduce a double degree program for students from Universities in China and India.

These global partnerships foster opportunities for research, exchange at faculty and student level, and greater internationalization of the university’s curricula. The partnerships also facilitate the university not only to bring forth students with high academic knowledge but also competent citizens and future leaders capable of dealing with organizational and societal challenges of the 21st century in an increasingly globalizing world.

These partnerships aim to initiate and accommodate joint academic research, deliver innovative study or social programs or academic progression while providing students and staff to exposure to culturally differing environments. This approach also helps to forge special sustaining relationship. Sharing common mission and mindset of students and staff, rather than the geographical location is of primary importance to the University.

II. Goals

- develop close working links with a range of overseas partners, especially those similar academic interests
- support and encourage staff exchange programs
- develop academic programs for joint delivery such a double degree
- increase student exchange programs and study/work abroad opportunities (e.g. semester study)
- establish joint institutes for collaborative research
- prepare joint applications for external funding from different sectors
- facilitate more multicultural interactions between students and staff

III. Cooperation

Since the founding year in 2005, the Management of the SRH university considered international student and staff mobility as an essential element that contributes to quality assurance in higher education. The university thus pursues internationalization systematically to enhance quality and global understanding in all courses of study as well as research projects. The focus is not primarily on geographical areas, instead the university leaders along with the international office seek to provide opportunities to its students and staff to move around Europe and beyond EU boundaries. Accordingly, the university has establish cooperation and academic relationships with Higher Education Institutions (HEI) within and beyond Europe.

IV. The internationalization concept

The internationalization concept aims at increasing the university’s international involvement and exposure while attempting to make the SRH university Hamm an attractive international partner. To realize this, a number of activities are implemented at all study levels of the organization. At the core, these activities refer to:

- increasing student and staff international mobility through more HEI cooperation
- international promotion of courses and programs taught in English as well as in German language
- developing cultural competences of students and staff
- introducing new courses and study tracks to attract more foreign students

These are activities are on-going and are prioritized based on the requirements of international partners in alignment with the internationalization concept.

V. Activities

The following examples help to understand some of the activities of the SRH university Hamm in the context of its internationalization concept.

- the University is a founding member of the ISLC network, which gives students and staff opportunities to move to other HEI partners in Europe. Annual conferences, held in different locations, offer students to interact with other students and present as well as exchange academic research results. The network also provides a common research platform in the context of environmental sustainability.
- study semester in English at master level in logistics was introduced to cater needs of HEI in Asia. Students completing the course could earn 30 ECTS
- double degree programs are developed to serve students from Indonesia and Ireland
- other activities follow