

Designing and managing international relations, educational projects and mobility schemes in Asian Universities Erasmus+ KA102

NATIONAL WORKSHOP IN SRI LANKA 27.10.2020





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UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA







A Global Outlook for Sri Lankan Universities: International Strategies

Neelakshi C. Premawardhena Centre for International Affairs University of Kelaniya Sri Lanka







VISION

 To become a centre of excellence in creation and dissemination of knowledge for sustainable development

MISSION

• To nurture intellectual citizens through creativity and innovation, who contribute to the national development.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Centre for Research Improvement and International Affairs est. July 2011 (WCU funds)
- Centre for International Affairs
- Centre for International Relations & International Student Affairs Unit est. Oct. 2014
- Centre for International Affairs est. April 2017
- The university has unique fields of study that have great potential to attract international scholars and students in large numbers
- Departments of Modern Languages, Sanskrit, Pali and Buddhist Studies, Fine Arts, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Linguistics
- Increased visibility and international presence through several European Commission funded projects since 2013

- University of Kelaniya has over 600 international students
- Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Diploma students
- Commerce and Management Studies, Humanities, Medicine, Science and Social Sciences, Graduate Studies, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies
- Facility for International Credit Transfer
- Student Volunteer Programme

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

First point of contact for any international scholar, grant agency, prospective student or university

- International Cooperation Division
- International Student Affairs Division

International Cooperation



- Collaboration with international partners
- Partner proposals of joint projects with European and Asian universities (e.g.: Erasmus Projects)
- Promote academic collaboration and exchange programmes with overseas universities
- Disseminate information on grant opportunities
- Provide the staff and students with support to apply for scholarships and outgoing mobility grants
- Processing and validating applications
- Explore opportunities for research collaboration; joint research leading to international publications
- Staff and student exchange
- Cultural exchange and other international initiatives
- Facilitate visitor protocols

- Monitor and provide information on the University's current activities
- Identify and publicise funding opportunities
- Offer advice and assistance to faculty in the preparation and submission of mobility proposals and applications
- Maintain active liaison with award agencies, sponsors, research and international education organisation and international offices at other universities

- Conducting awareness programmes, Workshops, seminars
- Promotion of postgraduate and diploma programmes to attract international students
- Supporting incoming and outgoing staff, student mobility



International Student Affairs



- Information and assistance to undergraduate and graduate students, exchange students, visiting scholars on study programmes, accommodation
- Orientation and cultural exchange pogrammes
- Coordinate the Government of Sri Lanka Presidential Scholarships for Foreign Students with the Ministry of Higher Education, University Grants Commission
- Student Volunteer Programme

- Promotion of scholarship/training opportunities through the university website
- Providing assistance to outgoing mobility of selected students, academic and administrative staff from the university under different grant schemes including Erasmus+, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Goethe Institute scholarships
- Assistance with immigration procedures for incoming and outgoing students and scholars

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

- 1. To create a high quality and flexible teaching and learning environment
- 2. To develop the highest quality faculty and staff to attain the strategic goals of the university
- 3. To create a multi-disciplinary research culture of global standing
- 4. To improve the image of the university by widening the range of economic and social engagement
- 5. To develop an excellent system of governance through efficient and effective administration and financial management

(Corporate Plan, University of Kelaniya 2020-2024)

GOAL 01: TO CREATE A HIGH QUALITY AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Aims & Objectives

- To provide students with high quality educational programs
- To enhance the accessibility of the university to a diverse student population, including students with special needs and those from other countries, to the university
- To increase the employability of graduates from the university.
- To develop relationships with employers to help graduates achieve gainful and timely employment.
- To create and maintain a culture that supports teaching excellence in all study programs.
- To promote the health and well-being of students
- To enhance international opportunities for student learning.
- To improve infrastructure facilities
- To improve the university rank in world university rankings

GOAL 01: TO CREATE A HIGH QUALITY AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Strategies/activities

- Introduce and conduct innovative, quality and attractive study programs
- Revise the existing curricula to meet national and international needs
- Encourage lifelong learning in order to enable students and graduates to realize their full potential
- Provide more opportunities for the development of students' soft skills
- Provide opportunities for students to get practical experience in the industry, where applicable
- Conduct an annual, comprehensive assessment of the quality of teaching in each faculty and convey results to staff

GOAL 01: TO CREATE A HIGH QUALITY AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Strategies/activities contd.

- Provide students with more opportunities to participate in sports, clubs and societies, together with opportunities for leadership and formal recognition of their extra curricula activities
- Strengthen personal support for students
- Provide exchange/link programs with international higher educational institutions
- Enhance the physical infrastructure to increase capacity, quality and sustainability of teaching and learning environment
- Provide more medical care services for the improvement of student's health

GOAL 02: TO DEVELOP THE HIGHEST QUALITY FACULTY AND STAFF TO ATTAIN THE STRATEGY GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Aims & Objectives

- To develop and implement a plan for Human Resources in the university
- To recruit and retain the highest quality of academic, administrative and nonacademic staff
- To create a safe and healthy work environment for all employees of the university
- To create learning opportunities and to increase support (financial) for all categories of staff to obtain relevant academic or professional qualifications

GOAL 02: TO DEVELOP THE HIGHEST QUALITY FACULTY AND STAFF TO ATTAIN THE STRATEGY GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Strategies/Activities

- Assess current and future recruitment needs for each department
- Establish a succession plan for key positions within each department
- Evaluate a performance appraisal system for all staff members and recognize outstanding performance
- Identify proper mechanisms to enhance job rotation, job enlargement and job enrichment of employees within the university
- Introduce a grievance handling unit
- Provide more opportunities for university community to maintain their physical and mental health
- Establish support/training programs for probationary academic staff
- Establish support/training programs for administrative officers and other related staff
- Increase opportunities for professional/academic development of staff

GOAL 03: TO CREATE A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CULTURE OF GLOBAL STANDING

Aims & Objectives

- Develop a research culture in the University by increasing the number of research projects and allocate at least 10% from the University capital budget as research grants
- Increase publications in local and international refereed/indexed academic journals
- Increase interdisciplinary research
- Promote public-private partnership in research and in development and commercialization of new products
- Strengthen the university e-library system

GOAL 03: TO CREATE A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CULTURE OF GLOBAL STANDING

Strategies/Activities

- Develop the university's research profile to be of national and international importance
- Support academic staff who applied for and obtain research grants from national and international funding agencies
- Recognize and reward academic staff engaged in outstanding research of international standard
- Attract and retain high quality researchers and research students.
- Facilitate collaborative research nationally and internationally in areas which are of mutual interest
- Make the university's research findings available to the wider community
- Increase facilities for research activities
- Recognize and promote industrial research culture

GOAL 04: TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WIDENING THE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Aims & Objectives

- To increase the number of consultancy services / projects provided by the university to the community
- To increase the number of activities that support national development
- To increase links with professional bodies, industry, social organizations and other stakeholders
- To increase Social Responsibility Activities
- To improve the image of the University
- To increase awareness of the study programs offered by the University
- To enhance social and intercultural harmony
- To enhance the concept of Green University

GOAL 04: TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WIDENING THE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Strategies/Activities

- Establish innovation centre and business incubation centre
- Strengthen University-Industry cells to promote consultancies and testing services
- Participate in national planning activities and national examinations
- Build strategic partnerships with reputed professional bodies and social organizations in the country
- Promote a positive image of the university via university social responsibility (USR) and public relations activities

GOAL 04: TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WIDENING THE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Strategies/Activities contd.

- Introduce a brand guideline to the university
- Promote cohesion among different ethnic and religious communities within the university
- Promote gender equity and equality
- Enhance cultural, religious, recreational activities in the University
- Strengthen Alumni Associations in the University
- Develop a better atmosphere in the University in a sustainable manner

GOAL 5: TO DEVELOP AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE THROUGH THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Aims & Objectives

- To develop an efficient system of governance
- To incorporate modern technology to enhance the efficiency of the administration
- To develop a Financial Administration System which is timely, responsive and accurate, while assuring integrity and promoting accountability in order to optimize utilization of resources

GOAL 5: TO DEVELOP AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE THROUGH THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTOVE MANAGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Strategies/Activities

- Improve infrastructure facilities and maintenance service to provide a conducive working environment for all employees
- Evaluate current systems (systems audit) and improve them
- Introduce a fully computerized and integrated MIS system for all the administrative divisions of the university
- Streamline the process of budgeting
- Streamline the process of administering scholarship funds and external research grants
- Streamline the process of financial administration of fee-levying courses offered by the university
- Maximize utilization of funds received by the University

INTERNATIONALIZATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- Visiting Professorship (incoming) funded by the university since 2016
- Facility for International Credit Transfer for incoming and outgoing students since 2015
- Establishment of Research Council in 2014 to encourage, recognise and promote outstanding research
- Establishment of Centre for International Affairs in 2011
- Establishment of Confucius Institute in 2006
- Partnering with overseas universities
- Funding for academic staff for doctoral studies, conference partcipation, publication of research papers
- Senate Awards for academic staff for publications in indexed journals

INTERNATIONALIZATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- Partnering with international organisations and agencies Japan Foundation, Korea Foundation, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Fulbright Commission, Commonwealth Foundation, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) & Goethe Institute for educational projects, staff and student scholarship grants, visiting professorships
- Reaching higher international ranking E.g. THE, QS Ranking
- Matching objectives, strategies and KPIs with THE and QS rankings
- Increasing partnerships with overseas universities for research collaboration, incoming and outgoing staff, student mobility and more training opportunities for administrative staff
- Increasing number of international students for postgraduate studies and research

OUR ERASMUS PARTNERS



















UNIVERSIDADE
DE TRÁS-OS-MONTES
E ALTO DOURO



- Akdeniz University, Turkey
- Bologna University, Italy
- Lodz University, Poland
- Masaryk University, Czech Republic
- New University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Polytechnic Pozega, Croatia
- Rouen University, France
- Szczecin University, Poland
- Tallinn University, Estonia
- University of Algarve, Portugal
- University of Porto, Portugal
- University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal

ERASMUS MOBILITY ERASMUS MUNDUS



- Erasmus Mundus International Mobility Programme for Academic and Knowledge Transfer 2014 2019 (IMPAKT)
- Incoming mobility: Academic Staff, Postdoctoral, Undergraduate
- Outgoing mobility: Academic Staff, Postgraduate, Undergraduate
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ERASMUS+ MOBILITY



- Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility since 2016
- Incoming mobility: Academic Staff, Administrative Staff
- STT, STA
- Outgoing mobility: Academic Staff, Administrative Staff, Undergraduate
- STT, STA, SMS

ERASMUS+ CBHE



TOOLKIT - Designing and Managing International Relations, Educational Projects and Mobility Schemes in Asian Universities

Coordinated by University of Bologna, Italy
European Partners
Uppsala University
Vilnius University
7 Partners from Myanmar, Laos and Sri Lanka

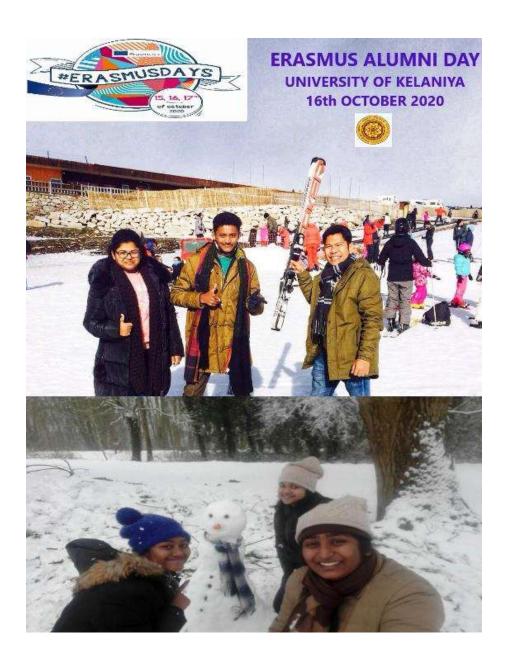
CHALLENGES

main obstacles to the development/improvement of the international dimension

- Negotiating and approving MOUs
- Status of international offices one of the significant entities of a university
- Appointing permanent employees to the Centre for International Affairs
- Budget issues
- Visa issues for student mobility to Europe when no diplomatic mission is available in the country
- Trade Union action
- Terror attacks e.g.; Easter bomb attack in 2019
- Prevailing situation due to Covid 19 pandemic

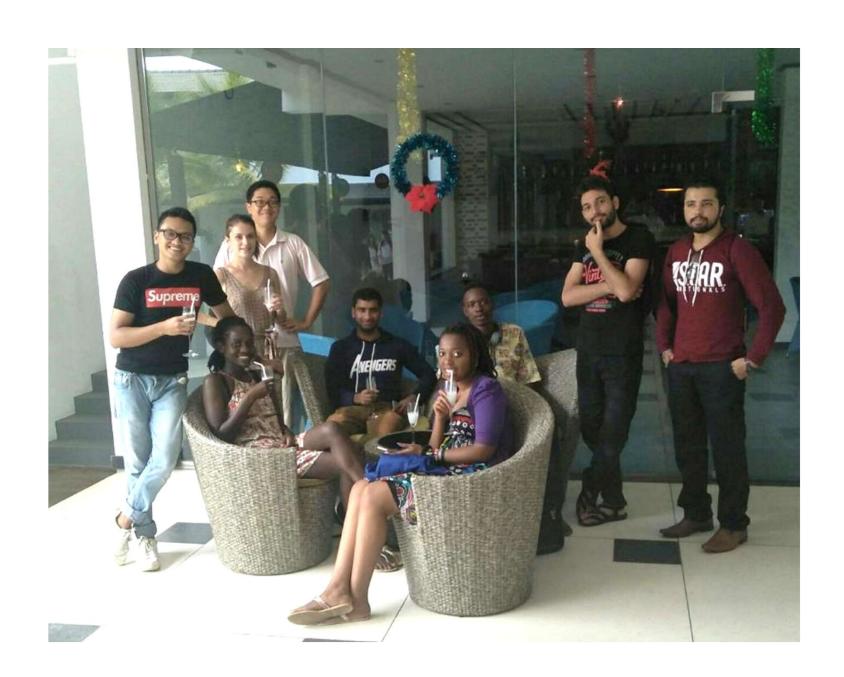
HIGHLIGHTS

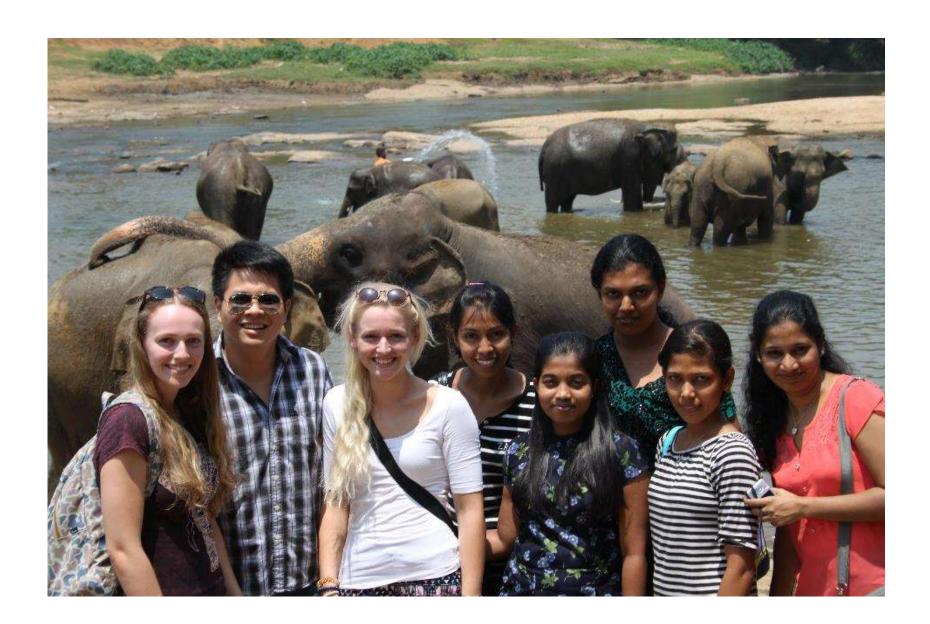
- Visiting delegates
- Agreements
- Workshops
- Awareness sessions
- Cultural exchange









































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