



Accompanying the intra- and extra-border
community and linkage with foreign students

Strategic engagement

Global, cross-cutting, and inclusive training

International collaboration in research and creation

Institutionalization of global affairs

DEEPENING INTERNATIONALIZATION



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The internationalization of a university is crucial for its development and reflects the quality of the institution, particularly in a global and multicultural world. Because of its nature and relevance, it has a significant impact on its activities of training people, creating scientific, humanistic, artistic and social knowledge, and transferring that knowledge to the national and international community. Thus, a university is expected to actively participate in the resolution of global challenges, together with its international partners.

At Universidad Católica we understand internationalization as a complex and long-term process that encompasses all our work. For this reason, and to install a culture of internationalization within the UC, the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs was created in 2020. This new unit is responsible for leading and executing the university's international relations policies and is a very important step on the road to greater internationalization.

“Internationalization allows us to embrace our mission and enables us to grow as individuals and as an institution”.

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The Universidad Católica projects itself to the world as an institution with a public vocation, empathetic, and attentive to the concerns and needs of society. One of our main concerns in this area is to project ourselves as a Latin American pole of academic attraction, with a vast potential for cultural exchange and a great innovative capacity to transfer knowledge. All this hand in hand with our essence, a Catholic and Chilean university. Through internationalization, we seek to attract talent and knowledge and transfer our own to areas where it is needed.

Internationalization nurtures and boosts our creativity, brings us closer to other cultures

ESTABLISHING OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- / Establishing the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, articulating internationalization efforts previously isolated and located in multiple areas.
- / Networking within the UC, with international affairs officers for each faculty, and developing an information management system.
- / Defining and updating mobility, scholarship allocation and strategic linkage processes, and substantially streamlining the development and management of agreements with foreign universities and entities.

OBJECTIVE / 1
Deepening internationalization: objectives and actions

and develops our self-knowledge. It requires our students, academics, professionals and administrators to venture out of their comfort zone, to expose themselves to international peers; to dare to go beyond, and set goals and projects that otherwise would not happen.

For the next five years, our internationalization plan aims to create the conditions to expand the areas where it is not present today and to strengthen those where there is a long tradition of collaboration. The plan aims to provide a value proposition that responds to the needs and expectations of all members of the university community – undergraduate and graduate students, national and foreign academics, postdocs, managers, international relations teams of academic units, professionals and administrative staff – and other stakeholder groups, including resident directors and international affairs offices of foreign universities in Chile, government institutions and national and foreign donors.

Institutionalization of global affairs

With the creation of the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs in 2020, the university ratifies this axis, already included in the previous plan, and its deep commitment to install a culture of internationalization in its community. This vice president's office will articulate the internationalization efforts previously managed in

“The Office of the Vice President for International Affairs will allow us to be a more inclusive university, to be much more open-minded and to generate a cultural change”.

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different parts of the university. This articulation, based on a high standard of management, will be fundamental for the promotion of an internal cultural change towards strategic positioning in the international context. The aim is to implement an effective management of information, processes and continuous improvement, an internal and external communication strategy, and a sustainable international collaboration development model.

At the same time, in order to promote a greater appreciation and recognition of internationalization, networking will be implemented with those in charge of international affairs from different units of the university. This will allow further progress on what has been built and improve the management of mobility processes, scholarship allocation, management of information on international activity, processing of agreements and evaluation of results.

Global, cross-cutting, and inclusive training

Global training includes the development of a set of competencies that allow us to face very different intercultural, international and global realities, and that are available to all members of the community. This is part of our educational project that has been mentioned in other axes and is a fundamental and transversal aspect of our plan. The contribution of this axis begins with internationalization at home and, in particular, with curricular internationalization. Through active learning and the use of technologies, the university expects to develop instances of meaningful interaction between national and foreign students, teaching courses developed in conjunction with international institutions that contribute to the UC graduate profile. To do so, we expect to offer a diverse set of pre-validated courses with our strategic partners.

To maximize the impact of internationalization at home, facilitating the possibilities of interacting, communicating and getting to know other cultures in depth, it is important to increase the level of English in the entire university community. On the other hand, the Instituto Confucio plays a very important role in strengthening our relationship with China and is a channel to promote and diversify the internationalization of university life, through

“Internationalization at home is very important to enhance inclusion and the possibility of leveraging digital tools makes it vastly more feasible to explore new collaborations and diversify geographic approaches”.

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its work of disseminating Chinese language and culture in our country. During the next five years we will expand and systematize initiatives aimed at keeping international life active within the campuses, making our identity and our links with the rest of the world more visible.

Through internationalization at home, and with a focus on global training, the university expects to attract international talent, promote curricular internationalization in undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs, foster international mobility and its appreciation in the community, and increase intercultural exchange on all campuses.

OBJECTIVE / 2 Deepening internationalization: objectives and actions

DEVELOPING INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME

- / Creating new instances of meaningful interaction between domestic and foreign students and promoting permanent international activities on campus.
- / Promoting opportunities to enhance the UC graduate profile with the development of intercultural skills and languages.
- / Moving forward with the creation of more courses and PhD programs taught entirely or partially in English.

DEVELOPING ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMS FOR FOREIGNERS AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UC COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE / 3 Deepening internationalization: objectives and actions

- / Developing an accompaniment program that considers foreigners of all levels together with their families, and centralizing the processes related to the welcoming of international people.
- / Supporting members of the university community who are seeking international opportunities or pursuing programs abroad.
- / Developing protocols to prevent and deal with risk situations, oriented to the foreign community.

Accompanying the intra- and extra-border community and linkage with foreign alumni

During the last three years, the hiring of foreign academics has grown significantly, representing close to 40% of the new professors joining the university. Likewise, the number of international students entering all levels of education has increased. In both cases, it is necessary to develop a program for welcoming, accompanying and monitoring people, in order to ensure that our university is a safe and welcoming space for all.

The main tasks of the accompaniment program are the centralization of the welcoming and integration processes of foreigners, as well as the support to people from the UC community who are seeking international placement opportunities or who are abroad. This effort must include protocols and initiatives to prevent and face risk situations typical of academic mobility.

On the other hand, it is paramount to strengthen the link with undergraduate and graduate alumni from other countries who have studied at UC.



EXPANDING RESEARCH PROJECTS AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

OBJECTIVE / 4
 Deepening internationalization: objectives and actions

- / Supporting applications for large projects with foreign funding and promoting the Network of Regional Centers and Stations internationally.
- / Mapping the work with international research and teaching partners by discipline and academic unit, to take advantage of advances and develop new opportunities.
- / Establishing new meeting spaces between foreign and national academics, providing support and taking advantage of visiting professors' stays.

International collaboration in research and creation

The strengthening of international research collaboration is a challenge that has become increasingly important for the UC. This collaboration makes it possible to scale the university's existing creative capacities in scientific, technological, artistic, humanistic and social fields. A key aspect in this effort is the centralization of information and the definition of collaboration focuses and networks.

Through international collaboration, the university can solve local concerns and be part of the solution to global problems.

To achieve this purpose, we must promote the participation of our academics in international collaborative projects, as was once the case with the promotion of national collaborative projects. For this, it is essential to know and promote existing collaborative initiatives in the different academic units and take advantage of the networks that each professor has built in his or her academic career. Through international collaborative work, we will increase the opportunities to access new funds to develop cutting-edge research.

Finally, and as stated in the research and creation axis, a primary objective for the coming years is to position the Network of Regional Research Centers and Stations (RCER-UC) as a pole of attraction for worldwide academic talent.

Strategic engagement

In recent years, the university has made significant progress in the international arena. Greater participation in networks and the development of strategic links with international partners have expanded academic opportunities in training, creation and impact. Today we need to define criteria that will allow us to identify and prioritize the partner institutions and networks with which we wish to collaborate, in order to focus our efforts and resources on consolidating these relationships and thereby strengthen our international academic base.

We intend to achieve a solid link with each of these partners, in one or more areas, exercising an active leadership in all international instances. Along with this, we will promote the international accreditation of degree programs in order to promote the external validation of the quality of all our programs. At the regional level, we must take advantage of existing networks to contribute to public policies and the development of society.

“International development in all areas is a real cultural change”.

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The international recognition achieved, especially in Latin America, imposes on us a commitment to the sustainable development of the region. The university can do much more than it does today in terms of professional education, especially in this new scenario in which distance education has acquired such a relevant role and has broken down geographical barriers between countries. In this aspect, the possibility of offering programs of interest to Latin American and Asian partners is a clear way to expand the reach and social impact of the UC in the world, along with contributing to its sustainability. To achieve this important objective, the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs will work closely with UC Online and the Office of Continuing Education in the creation of an offer of professional education programs, of a modular nature, oriented to the international world.



OBJECTIVE / 5
 Deepening internationalization: objectives and actions

STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- / Collaborating in a more focused way and establishing intentional and solid links with strategic partners.
- / Offering programs of interest to Latin American and Asian countries, in order to broaden the reach and social impact of the UC.
- / Expanding the links of the Office of the Vice president for International Affairs, and through it of the faculties, with national and transnational organizations that generate new opportunities and open new work horizons for our students.