

## INTERNATIONALIZATION POLICY

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The global landscape today demands that institutions across the world have an awareness of their international contexts and of their essential interconnectedness. These considerations complement a growing sense of the potential for global perspectives to inform and enable the range of global challenges and opportunities now emerging.

Internationalization within higher education institutions plays a considerable role in shaping the learning outcomes of current and successive generations of learners. dSEA, conscious of the need for a systematic approach to learn and train the next generation, began a multidimensional process to internationalize the Department in a way that reflects the multi-dimensional nature of such an engagement.

dSEA global outreach can be broadly classified into Internationalization at home and Internationalization abroad. dSEA offers internationally relevant curricula across its program portfolio, a wide range of outgoing and incoming mobility programs for faculty, staff and students and research collaboration with foreign universities.

Internationalization has been a strategic objective of dSEA since 1989 and, in the ensuing years, has been an integral part of developing the mission areas of teaching and research. The initial focus centred around providing opportunities for students and faculty to study, conduct research abroad (Internationalization abroad). In the early 2000's summer schools and Erasmus programs were launched to encourage students to experience Internationalization as an essential part of the learning experience. Faculty and student exchange opportunities were developed to facilitate intellectual openness and free flow of ideas, and dSEA wants to improve the quality of its international network of academic partners. The globalized and post-covid world rewards corporate workers with international work experience. In the current context, dSEA understands it is imperative to enhance its corporate connections in other countries. In addition, a focus is also being placed on developing the third mission/engagement area with increased opportunities for international internships.

**Internationalization of curriculum:** Globalization has been one of the fundamental transformative forces of our times. It calls for a response from higher education institutions like dSEA to align curriculum to meet the needs of a globalized competitive economy. The international dimension of dSEA is evidenced on the one hand by the number of programs wholly held in English. More pertinently, students develop an international and intercultural outlook due to a teaching vision that has global perspective on the critical elements debated during the lessons as its focus. This modern perspective is ensured by a significant presence of international visiting professors from foreign universities and research institutes. Every student at the Department has access to an open community of local and international students and incoming mobile students with many different cultural and educational backgrounds.

**International mobility<sup>1</sup>:** dSEA has been promoting student mobility for over 30 years, convinced of the importance of a life experience abroad in improving communication, language and inter-cultural skills and gaining valuable soft skills. All students have the opportunity to spend a semester or a full academic year at an international university either to study or to carry out research. Thanks to the existence of several bilateral agreements with other universities worldwide, as well as the extensive participation in European programs for research and education, dSEA offers many international opportunities to study abroad. Every year, several hundred students take part in mobility programs or attend international courses, thus studying new subjects, understanding different cultures and experience other educational systems. The University of Padua is also a significant player in the Erasmus+ Program, enabling students to spend a period abroad at partner universities and attend courses, take exams, prepare dissertations or carry out internships.

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<sup>1</sup> The University supports internationalization above all by encouraging the mobility of teachers, its technical-administrative staff and students and the international character of its teaching and student body. The University encourages integrated study programs and initiatives of inter-university cooperation for study and research activities (By-laws article 1; 7)

**Recruitment of international students and faculty:** Departmental attention to strategic objectives that emphasise a global mindset and an inclusive learning environment, find one expression in the recruitment of an increasing number of international students<sup>2</sup>. A shared understanding supports students in their adaptation phase, and all students are treated on equal terms by providing bilingual documents and portals. Various initiatives are also in place to integrate students through Welcome days and tailor-made services like Orientation & Tutoring and Buddies. In recognizing the challenges associated with a diverse student body, a holistic approach is promoted to address socio-cultural barriers.

An international faculty visiting program recruits visiting faculty from academic institutions across the world in their area of expertise and hire them for brief periods to teach and conduct research at the Department. Their integration into the broader internationalization agenda is also reflected in their engagement in various research and postgraduate supervision activities.

Salient features of Internationalization at home are outlined in the following table:

<b>Teaching and learning</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Public engagement</b>
Internationalization of curriculum	Participation in international research calls	Integrating international students through welcome days and ongoing supports
English as the medium of instruction for the majority of programs	Organization of international research seminars, conferences and workshops	Participation in international partnerships and networks
Study abroad opportunities	Participation in international job markets for researchers	Specific tutor support for international students
Distance learning through MOOCs		
Advisory board with international presence	Advisory board with international presence	

Salient features of Internationalization abroad policy include:

<b>Teaching and learning</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Public engagement</b>
International recruitment of teaching staff and students	Faculty research publications with international counterparts	Strategic partnerships with overseas partners
Exchange programs to attract international students and staff	EU research collaboration and project lead with universities within the EU	Faculty engagement with third parties
Joint programs with highly-ranked international universities	Faculty participation in international conferences	Work placements abroad for students
Internship and work placements for students		

<sup>2</sup> The University encourages the exchange of students above all at an international level, as well as initiatives to permit attendance by worker students and student workers even through the use of information and communication technologies and the web, intensive courses, Italian language courses for foreigners, degree courses and seminars in a foreign language (By-laws article 1; 8)

## International objectives of dSEA

The Department intends to gradually evolve into an advanced learning hub, offering high-end educational offerings to domestic and international students and early-stage professionals. The mission is to leverage the research-driven ethos to enable rigorous research-based and student-centred teaching and learning. dSEA advocates a thorough and evidence-based approach to economic and managerial sciences. The faculty teaches and trains students to apply thoroughly critical thinking and creative problem-solving to prepare students for tomorrow's work challenges. dSEA intends to pursue this goal through clear and defined objectives.

- To promote active engagement between the Department and internationally accredited universities of higher education
- To increase the attractiveness of dSEA to become one of the preferred destinations for international students and young researchers in Italy
- To further commit to improving global university rankings through international accreditation