

# The University College of Vocational Education

## International strategy 2023-28

HØFY's international strategy is the overall, governing strategy for the institution's internationalization work.

Internationalization is an important instrument in HØFY's strategic quality work and helps to ensure the quality of our educational programmes. HØFY's planned international work involves education, research and working life, and aims to develop competence that can contribute to restructuring in Norwegian working life. HØFY strives to educate knowledgeable candidates who are active and responsible participants in the international community.

Globalization and internationalization affect society and working life in different ways. HØFY's strategic plan for 2022-2025 contains goals to "develop and offer bachelor's degrees that are relevant to working life and meet the needs of future working life" and "contribute to the further development of vocational education at university level both regionally, nationally and internationally". In addition, HØFY has joined the UN's sustainability goals to eradicate poverty, fight inequality, and stop climate change by 2030. HØFY's internationalization strategy is part of the college's work to achieve these goals.

HØFY is part of an international academic community and has a responsibility to disseminate and develop up-to-date international research. HØFY's international strategy has been developed on the basis of Meld. St. 16 (2016–2017) Culture for quality in higher education, the Study Supervision Regulations and the Universities and Colleges Act.

## Objectives

The internationalization work during the period will take place within the following areas:

1. Strategic cooperation
2. Research
3. Internationalization of education

Each of the areas have a primary goal, development objectives and measures.

## 1. Strategic cooperation

Primary goal:

*HØFY will develop long-term international cooperation.*

Solid partnerships, networks and alliances are a resource of great importance for professional development and quality development in our programs. Therefore, HØFY will increase its commitment and participation in the European research and education area. Cooperation within the European education, research and innovation area will be a main priority for HØFY.

During the period, work will be done systematically to further develop existing strategic partnerships, while work is also being done to establish bilateral partnerships with selected European institutions.

Development objectives:

- HØFY shall have an agreement portfolio with selected institutions that contribute to strategic, long-term international cooperation that will provide increased quality in R&D activities and teaching.
- Through cooperation with strategic partners, HØFY will increase participation in EU programmes and other international programmes/instruments for research, innovation, and education.
- HØFY will strengthen its role as a regional knowledge actor through the institution's international orientation.

Measures:

- HØFY will establish and develop strategic partnerships with a limited number of selected educational institutions in the Nordic countries and Europe, and through participation in various partnerships and collaborative projects contribute to lifting the quality of teaching and research.
- HØFY will prioritise the development of partnerships with Nordic institutions and the utilisation of joint Nordic initiatives, such as in relation to the EU.
- HØFY will work to form international knowledge alliances, including with regional actors.

## 2. Research

*Primary goal:*

*HØFY will be part of an international research environment.*

As of 2023, HØFY is in the establishment phase of research and development work, both internally, nationally, and internationally. An essential part of the strategy is to facilitate and support the academic staff for international cooperation. This will be done by strengthening long-term cooperation with international institutions. At the same time, internal support functions must be strengthened and professionalised.

International cooperation will increase the quality of own research activities.

Development objectives:

- HØFY will strengthen research cooperation with international institutions and researcher networks to help increase the quality of our own research activities.
- HØFY will strengthen the financing of its own research through international sources of funding and international research cooperation.

Measures:

- HØFY will facilitate increased participation in international research cooperation and international project applications through cooperation with strategic partners. HØFY will develop its research administrative professionalism and support functions.
- HØFY will investigate internal incentive and support schemes to mobilise the research community for participation in international research cooperation.
- National and international sources of funding shall be used to support international research mobility.

## 3. Internationalization of education

*Primary goal:*

*HØFY's education programs must facilitate student mobility.*

Internationalization of education is an important measure for increased quality and relevance. Internationally oriented education ensures diversity, international experience and insight into global

challenges. In the long term, HØFY will facilitate increased student mobility and the inclusion of international students in the learning environment.

#### Development objectives:

- All study programmes must have an international profile and cooperation with foreign institutions.
- HØFY will facilitate student exchanges that in the long term lead to a proportion of students who complete longer stays at a foreign educational institution.
- HØFY will establish a system for recruitment of international students who can fit into HØFY's study programs.
- HØFY will further develop administrative services that support student mobility.
- HØFY will develop cooperation on courses, courses, and degree programmes with international partners.

#### Measures:

- HØFY will review the study programmes to ensure good coherence between learning outcome descriptions, teaching and learning activities, internationalisation programmes and forms of assessment.
- All study programmes must have elements of English language curriculum and issues that reflect global challenges in the individual subject areas.
- All study programmes must facilitate student mobility.
- HØFY will increase the recruitment of international students.
- Adjunct professor positions and other teacher exchanges with foreign institutions shall be used systematically to increase academic quality and international relevance in teaching.