

Internationalisation Strategy of Dibrugarh University

Dibrugarh University – An Introduction

Location

Dibrugarh University is located in the state of Assam in the Northeast part of India. It has vibrant culture and heritage and is home to ecological diversity. The weather in Dibrugarh is not extreme making acclimatization sufficiently easy. There is a vast English-speaking population in the Northeast that fosters communication. It is well connected with a railway station and an airport with direct flights to Calcutta and New Delhi. The town of Dibrugarh where the University is located has a Medical College. There are tea gardens in the vicinity of the University.

Size

Dibrugarh University is a state university with a sprawling residential campus. It is equipped with residential quarters for its teaching and administrative staff. It has over 30 departments and centres and more than 10 hostels.

Infrastructure

Dibrugarh University boasts of significant infrastructure. It has several departments, centres and hostels. It also has an international students' hostel. It has a fully equipped library with the latest resources. It also has a guest house and several canteens. It has a health centre with two resident doctors. It also has several seminar rooms and conference halls. It has one auditorium which can accommodate 1000 people.

Office of International Affairs

Dibrugarh University's Office of International Affairs supports students and is undertaking measures to foster the internationalization of the University. It aims to boost research collaborations with institutions abroad. It also aims to promote dual degrees, twinning and exchange programmes with its partner institutions for its teachers and students both for short and long terms.

Partnership Development

Dibrugarh University aims to promote partnerships with institutions abroad to foster collaborative research, the promotion of dual degrees, and twinning and exchange programmes.

Funding

As the internationalization of the University increases, funds will be sourced from alumni networks and external agencies. They will also be sourced from foreign missions, department of the Government of India, UGC.

Internationalization Strategy

Mission

Dibrugarh University's mission of internationalization of higher education includes partnerships with institutions abroad, promotion of research collaborations, publication in journals of international competence and exchanges of teachers and students with foreign universities. It seeks to internationalize its curricula and outlook to contribute to the requirements of the 21st-century world in which connectivity, partnerships and cooperation are key to innovation and finding solutions to transnational and global issues.

Vision and goals

The vision of the internationalization of Dibrugarh University is to promote global recognition of Dibrugarh University as an institution that exemplifies the internationalization of education. It seeks to create an academic atmosphere and a university community based on an international exposure that promotes and fosters harmony, cooperation and amity beyond borders.

Institutional Needs Assessment

- Recruit international students and faculty
- Partner with institutions of other countries, globalize curricula
- Join degree/dual degree,
- Increase avenues for students from India to pursue study abroad
- Research collaboration for faculty and researchers
- Improve ranking and reputation by connecting with globally ranked institutions

Strategies and tactics

An Internationalization Strategy is prepared by the Office of International Affairs that details the strategies and tactics of internationalization to be pursued by the University. It focuses on building an international reputation for the University, internationalization of student experience, pedagogy and curriculum, internationalized recruitments, transnational education, international research and knowledge transfer, internationalised alumni networks, linkages and philanthropy and internationalised university services.

Measuring Success

Every academic year stock will be taken on the achievements in the distinct parameters that have been set out in the internationalization strategy of the University and steps will be initiated to improve the results in the next cycle. Faculty appraisal will be carried out to assess their engagement with the process of internationalization.

Strategic Intent

The Internationalisation Strategy of Dibrugarh University intends to provide a framework towards the achievement of a University that is fully internationalised with an outlook and reach that is global in nature by 2025.

Key Strategic Aims

To entrench throughout the University a culture of internationalisation with regard to teaching, learning, research, knowledge transfer, community engagement and social responsibility.

1. To ensure that teaching and learning that is provided to students is internationalised and in equivalence with global standards so as to produce global citizens who are at par with their global counterparts and are conscientious in their worldview and action.
2. To focus on research and innovation that are outcome-oriented towards providing sustainable solutions to address socio-economic and ecological challenges at the global level through partnerships which are international in nature.
3. To affirm and realise the commitments under India's National Education Policy 2020 towards the internationalisation of higher education in the country to restore its role as a Vishwa Guru.

Introduction / Summary

Dibrugarh University envisages internationalisation as one of its key aims towards enabling an environment conducive to enhancing the academic visibility and influence of the institute, enriching the experiences of students, improving employability, contributing to sustainable development and creating income.

Dibrugarh University will attempt the following to ensure internationalisation:

1. Create partnerships at the local, national, regional and international levels.
2. Ensure accessibility of our programs at the international level.
3. Increase and diversify our international student community.
4. Emphasize curriculum development, pedagogy, research and innovation, servicedelivery and community engagement that is internationalised.
5. Promote global mobility and visits of faculty, officers and students.
6. Develop sustainable methods of intensifying activities, reputation and global brand projection of the University.
7. Ensure interface with the neighbouring spaces to enhance local benefits accrued from the international profile and influence of the University.
8. Leverage the geospatial potential of the location of the University to academically engage transboundary regions in neighbouring countries.
9. Harness the soft power potential of the socio-economic-cultural location of the University to promote transboundary and international peace, harmony and cooperation through transnational education.
10. The University will consider providing online programmes that are available globally as well as institutionalize the possibility of international faculty offering papers through the online and/or offline mode in our University to enrich our students' international experience.

11. The University will promote a student experience that is internationalized through an emphasis on internationally relevant course contents across the subjects offered.
12. The University will undertake research which has international collaborations.
13. The holistic vision towards the internationalisation of the University includes building its reputation as a University with an outlook that is global and reach that extends beyond borders, with a strong position in international academic markets, producing graduates who are highly competent, making them employable in a rapidly changing global environment, conducting research with international collaborations that are relevant and recognised across the world.
14. Our international engagements will be delivered under the brand '*Dibrugarh University Global*' which represents our comprehensive approach to internationalisation.

Dibrugarh University Global contains eight strategic dimensions through which its process of internationalisation is defined and through which the University will present its actions towards the attainment of this goal.

The dimensions are:

- I. International reputation and profile
- II. Internationalised student experience, curriculum and pedagogy
- III. Internationalised faculty and officer recruitment
- IV. International student recruitment
- V. Transnational education (TNE) and delivery of programs outside India
- VI. International research and knowledge transfer and exchange
- VII. International alumni networks, linkages and philanthropy
- VIII. Internationalised University services and offers

I. International Reputation and Profile

The traction of the University's internationalisation strategy lies in its profile and reputation. A powerful international reputation is required for the realization of the other dimensions of the strategy.

- To ensure global recognition as a University with a proven thrust on internationalisation
- To develop Dibrugarh University Global as a trustworthy brand which is representative of the internationalisation of the University
- To cultivate the recognition of the brand-Dibrugarh University Global in key global markets to foster greater recruitment of international students and faculty exchange
- International outreach of our activities
- Diversity and inclusiveness of international partnerships
- Aiming for placements in International Accreditations

Key features of the new strategy will include:

- Identify the key international markets to be prioritised by the University to enlarge its reach, expand engagements and generate awareness of the Dibrugarh University Global brand
- Develop financial plans and models to aid the expansion of activities including partnerships for internationalisation
- Ensure that all the academic and administrative plans of the University include an internationalised facet that details international goals, aims, performance indicators and plans.
- Set out specific operational plans for the development of international student recruitment and TNE.

II. Internationalised student experience, curriculum and pedagogy

The Internationalisation Strategy aims to ensure a learning experience for students that is global and a curriculum that is inclusive as well as an environment that is supportive of an overall agenda that is international in nature.

- High-quality student experience to be the centre of all education activity.
- To deliver clear guidelines on curriculum that is responsive to global societal needs.
- To ensure access of every student to mobility, studies in foreign languages and cultures.
- To foster awareness of faculty of an intercultural nature.

Key features of the new strategy will include:

- Developing an institutional definition of mobility for all our Faculty of Studies to promote outward mobility activity.
- Social activities are to be planned in the curricula to provide the benefits of internationalisation to all home and international students.
- Adapting programmes to enable students to undertake international mobility and language / intercultural studies. This activity will bear credits or will yield certificates to students.
- Providing a set of principles to guide the internationalised curriculum design and its review.
- Sourcing and advising students on international internship and mobility opportunities.
- Record all outward mobility activity to measure and review growth.
- Ensuring recognition is given to students' participation in internationalisation activities and ensuring full appreciation of teachers who are facilitating and promoting internationalisation.
- Enabling faculty placements, sourcing and advising faculty on opportunities for international collaborations and developing of foreign language skills of faculty.

III. Internationalised faculty and officer recruitment

The University will diversify its faculty which will have international experience in studentships, teacherships and research collaborations, which will foster the international experience of students.

- To ensure that faculty are international in outlook and committed to ensuring an internationalised students experience.
- To facilitate international collaboration for teaching, exchanges, research, and administration at partner universities.
- To provide opportunities for faculty to gain international perspectives and experience through cultural awareness training, teaching, research and knowledge transfer and commercial activities.
- To increase the number of visiting scholars and professors to broaden our international perspective.

Key features of the new strategy will include:

- Recruitment strategies to support diversity and internationalised faculty in hiring and promotions.
- Recruitment strategies will enable employment and recognition of faculty engaged in TNE.
- Institutionalised support to faculty to promote TNE and international experience in teaching, research, visits and collaborations.

IV. International student recruitment

This strategy envisages an increased number of on-campus international students.

- To double the number of on-campus non-Indian enrolments from the current baseline level in five years.
- To diversify our international student population in terms of home country.
- To ensure students from the neighbouring countries of India and the ASEAN enrol in the University. Indicators of Success Delivering Success

Key features of the new strategy will include:

- Expand the University's agent network to enhance international enrolments via agents.
- Investment in new posts dedicated to enhancing international recruitment.
- Strategic partnerships with foreign institutions to increase recruitment
- Close collaborative working with ICCR to provide promote the University as a global educational hub.
- Marketing initiatives and campaign through the media cell and mass communication department to project the Dibrugarh University Brand.
- Close collaboration with Professional Services to promote international enrolments.
- Recruitment of international alumni as brand ambassadors to promote the University as an internationalised global educational hub in their home countries and continents.

V. Transnational Education

TNE is a central component of the University's strategy of internationalisation strategy. It includes the University's global reach, reputation and revenue.

- To build a reputation as a leading provider of TNE in the world.
- To gain revenue from TNE partnerships.
- To diversify TNE provision across academic disciplines and geographical expanse through partnerships.

Key features of the new strategy will include:

- Developing International Centres in partnerships with other providers of TNE
- Develop successful TNE partnerships.
- Developing faculty orientation towards TNE to enhance the internationalised student experience.
- Expanding online provisions for TNE promotion
- Exploring possibilities of TNE through student mobility which can include completion of the undergraduate program in Dibrugarh University and movement to a partner university (under an MoU) outside the country for the completion of the post-graduate degree for home students and vice versa for international students. It can also include short-term mobility for internships of students to a partner university (under an MoU) outside the country and internships for international students in Dibrugarh University.

VI. Internationalised Research and Knowledge Transfer and Exchange

Globally competent and meaningful research, innovation and knowledge transfer and exchange underpin the University's vision and mission and are central to the reputation of the University.

- Amplify our international reputation as an institute of academic excellence through nationally and globally competitive and impactful research.
- Increase our international community of postgraduate research students with a research orientation that is global in nature.
- Increase our income from research and maximize the research impact in the international forum.
- Enhance interdisciplinary research in partnerships with global partners in industry and academia.

Key features of the new strategy will include:

- Implementation of a promotion policy which incentivises research excellence and potential.
- Stress on achieving 100 per cent research-active staff with a national and global output.
- Mentoring of faculty to enhance the quality of research outputs and impact.
- Inclusion of collaborative research, innovation and knowledge transfer clauses in MoUs with international partners.

VII. Internationalised Alumni Networks, Linkages and Philanthropy

Our alumni are instrumental in enabling the realization of the vision of internationalisation of the University. They also serve as global brand ambassadors of the University. They can help deliver the vision of this strategy.

- To develop our alumni network and foster philanthropy towards the University.
- To secure philanthropic revenue and generate income for the University.
- To host events to increase international alumni to maintain links with the University and to create new networks for the faculty and students of the University.
- To increase international alumni engagement to increase revenue generation in support of the internationalisation strategy.

Key features of the new strategy will include:

- Provide the University with a professional framework to build on funds.
- Alumni to share their expertise by delivering a master class to the University
- Launch a new international case studies platform based on best practices in generating funds from Alumni networks as part of the University website.
- Maintain an International Alumni Cell in the University with a detailed database of all students and functional guidelines on the ways to ensure networks and links globally through international students.
- Honour distinguished international alumni as a part of the image building of the University.

VIII. Internationalised University Services and Offers

The realisation of the objectives of internationalisation of the University will require a robust infrastructure that encapsulates all the systems, processes, officers and approaches of the institute. Professional services along with the university bodies will need to work together to integrate the vision of internationalisation with the overall outlook and activities of the University.

- To ensure that all TNE and other activities under internationalisation are supported by competent services that are easily accessible to all stakeholders of the university and prospective international students and faculty.
- Professional services to be engaged to ensure brand marketing in the relevant markets to promote international student and faculty recruitment.
- Ensuring admissions, curricula, pedagogy, research, examinations and residence to international stakeholders that are clearly stated and acceptable at a global level.
- To ensure that the University's international students are provided with details and aid about visa and immigration advice, mobile services, culture, cuisine, yoga and Indian language skills through professional services.
- Ensuring international students have access to support for their health and well-being at university as well as employment opportunities.
- Regular student satisfaction surveys and feedback.

Key features of the new strategy will include:

- Ensuring University systems and processes are responsive to all needs of students regardless of their nationality.
- The services extended to international students should be regularly updated and monitored.
- Professional services are to be engaged to ensure the latest TNE strategies are being disseminated.

Conclusions

- This document sets out the goals of the Internationalisation Strategy for the University to be achieved in the next 5 years.
- It will be accompanied by specific strategic and operational plans for all 8 dimensions.
- The International Strategy Committee, convened by the Director of the Office of International Affairs of the University will be responsible for monitoring the strategy and for reporting on progress to the University authorities on a semester-wise basis.