



Rottenburg University of Applied Forest Sciences (HFR)

Internationalisation Strategy

July 2021

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1 Mission and vision of the HFR

Rottenburg University of Applied Forest Sciences (HFR) is committed to the principle of sustainability and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, international and intercultural issues form a core part of its teaching and research.

The HFR takes the view that many global problems can only be solved through international cooperation. Our teaching and research activities help find answers for complex questions concerning the ecological, social and economic challenges of the 21st century. Challenges such as climate change, migration, refugee movements and the need for more sustainable forms of energy and transport cannot be solved by regional or national responses – they require dialogue on an international level.

The HFR provides its students with the skill set necessary to be able to work abroad and across national borders. We do this by promoting international employability through a portfolio that reflects our practical approach and the quality of the education we offer. In particular, that portfolio includes internationally oriented programmes in line with real-life needs, international study/work placements, international excursions, and online formats and processes. The HFR is especially keen to welcome students and guests from abroad. To deliver on our internationalisation goals, international mobility and connections on the part of our professors, students, junior academic staff, and administrative employees are crucial and are thus promoted by the University.

The HFR collaborates with international partners and provides extra support for international research projects. It also maintains close ties with universities across the globe.

The mission of the HFR is to deliver education that enables young people to take a professional, interdisciplinary and creative approach in their later careers at home and abroad as they work to safeguard the future of the global community. Programmes that reflect real-life needs and close links to applied research prepare our students for the task of encouraging others to adopt the principle of sustainable development after they graduate.

The HFR's teaching and research projects are highly regarded internationally. The past two decades have seen an increase in the share of staff with international experience, networks and language skills, all of which are used to the benefit of the University's teaching, research and student advice activities.

All degree programmes at Rottenburg University of Applied Forest Sciences are designed to deliver the knowledge and skills required to manage natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.

The HFR provides a forum for constructive, open-minded academic discourse, goal-driven cooperation between the worlds of theory and practice, and synergy between research and teaching. It draws on its international outlook and make-up to engage in international, intercultural dialogue to find answers to questions that transcend national borders and to create cross-border ties between the experts of today and tomorrow.

Sustainability and internationalisation

The HFR aims to ensure sustainable and responsible protection and management of natural resources – in Germany and abroad, in everyday life, at work and in international contexts.

The University increasingly uses online platforms for communication, research projects and teaching. In terms of sustainability, travel – an essential part of international cooperation – is a particular challenge. However, we wish to continue arranging excursions, conducting research/teaching/consulting projects with partners in other countries and encouraging our staff and students to travel and study/work abroad.

To align these aims with the SDGs, suitable measures are to be taken to limit the environmental pollution caused. The number of people travelling should be reduced to the minimum necessary, any domestic travel should not be by air, public local transport should be used as far as possible and carbon emissions should be offset through recognised schemes.

2 The HFR's structural framework

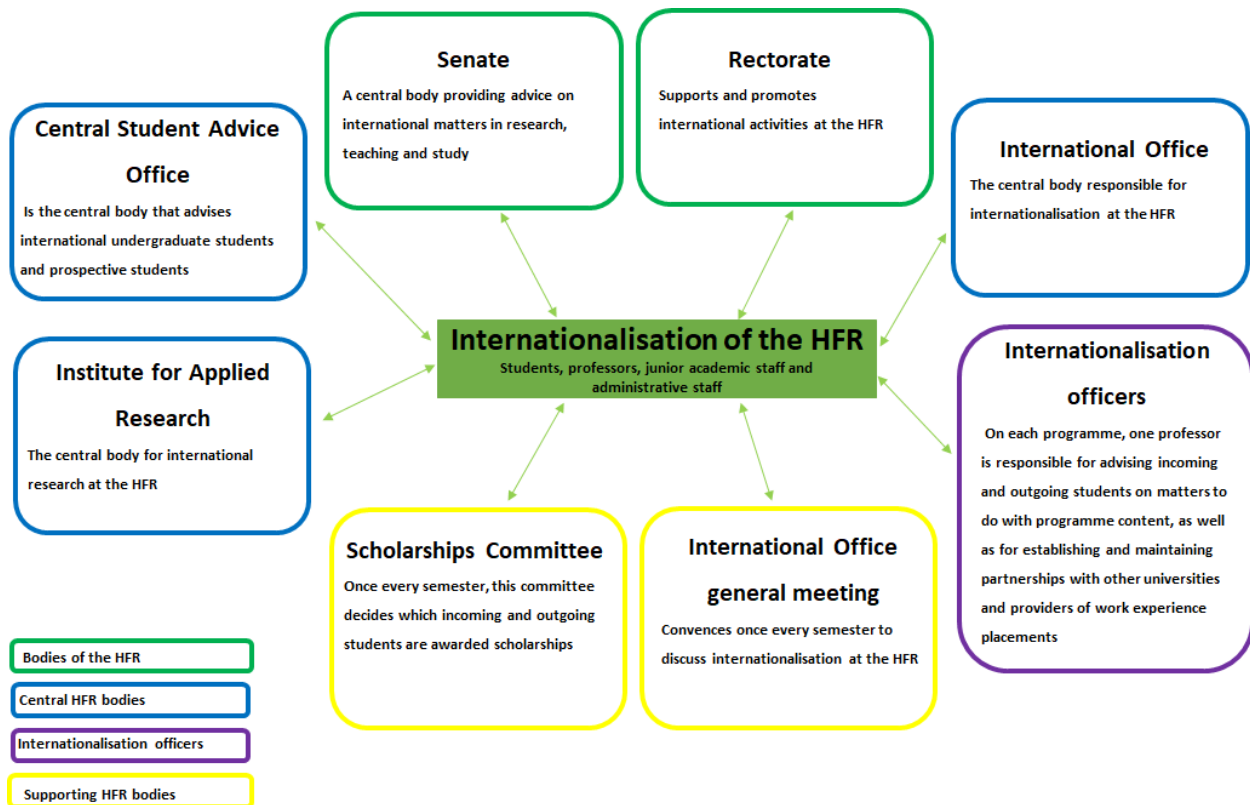
2.1 Degree programmes

The university bodies and structures necessary for the HFR's internationalisation process are in place. All of our higher and continuing education programmes are ultimately designed to deliver the knowledge and skills required to manage natural and renewable resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.

2.2 University bodies

All University bodies and degree programmes are affected by the HFR's internationalisation process.

Information on topics to do with internationalisation is shared regularly within the University through the International Office's general meeting. The degree programmes' internationalisation officers and the International Office are in regular contact. The internationalisation officers advise HFR students about work experience and study placements abroad as well as being responsible for incoming students. Where necessary, the International Office sets up work groups and organises workshops.



3 Internationalisation in teaching and research

All degree programmes at the HFR are aimed at sustainable, environmentally friendly use of natural and renewable resources.

In our teaching, research and administration, all activities help ensure sustainable development and international and internationalisation expertise is in place.

Apart from their subject-related and methodological skills, HFR graduates stand out for their practical knowledge, international experience and social skills. Our aim is to give students the opportunity to spend several months studying or gaining hands-on experience abroad. We achieve this mainly by advising students looking for international study placements, helping them find work experience placements abroad and by advising and supporting students applying for scholarships. We are increasing our incoming student rate in line with the HFR's growth to enable more international students to come to us for a study placement or an entire degree programme as well as to facilitate knowledge transfer.

Internationalisation is essential in this regard. Mobility plays a key role in ensuring peaceful co-existence in the global community, which is something we seek to promote.

3.1 Internationalisation activities

3.1.1 Students and teaching staff

The HFR promotes student mobility in terms of spending semesters abroad for study/work experience. We are constantly increasing the rate of incoming international students, professors and junior academic staff. The HFR hosts summer schools.

HFR students and international students acquire intercultural, foreign-language, practical and subject-related skills.

The University takes measures to enable University staff and students to participate in international activities.

3.1.2 Research and consulting

We are continuously making our research and consulting activities more international, and using international projects to do so. We will make the various projects more visible and integrate projects into teaching.

3.1.3 Communication and cooperation

We connect up those members of the HFR community who are internationally active. We work to establish networks between the HFR and our international partners in the field of research. The University is setting up a communication platform. We work to support international collaborations, which are essential for knowledge transfer. The HFR maintains ties with partner universities to enable students to access any courses of interest to them and researchers to take part in international research projects being conducted by universities in other countries.