

Internationalisation Strategy of the School of Medicine at Technische Universität Dresden

Introduction

The majority of members of our School live and breathe internationality. They have excellent international networks and find the exchange with international colleagues enriching, deeming it absolutely necessary to achieve research results at the highest international level. All these activities make a valuable contribution to the internationality of our School and the University as a whole. In presenting the Internationalisation Strategy, we are seeking to build on this foundation and to pool all available energies to improve structures and processes, focus resources and use them in a more targeted manner.

Where do we stand?

Establishing the three German Centres for Health Research funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), setting up the Dresden partner location of the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) and the high density of Clusters of Excellence have all made a significant contribution to the international visibility of Dresden as a science location. Our research activities are characterised by a translational approach. The successful translation of scientific results is made possible by the excellent, close co-operation with the Dresden University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus on a clinical, theoretical and administrative level.

Collectively, we make up Dresden University Medicine and provide excellent, practice-oriented medical and dental training for our students. This includes clinical education, research and aspects of technology transfer. In terms of international student mobility in particular, we are above the national average and, in dentistry, occupy a leading position in Germany. In addition, we offer specialised Master's degree programmes in public health, medical physics and, in co-operation with [Dresden International University](#) (DIU), Master's and Bachelor's degree programmes in a great number of other medical professions.

The School of Medicine is an active partner in the DRESDEN-concept alliance (Dresden Research and Education Synergies for the Development of Excellence and Novelty), and embodies the close co-operation with numerous exemplary non-university research institutions in joint structural units.

In addition to the local partnerships within DRESDEN-concept, joint trans-regional structures have also been established in Dresden. These are centres belonging to the Helmholtz Association, such as the German Cancer Research Center and the Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf.

Where do we want to go?

In collaboration with the University Hospital, we aim to assume a leading position in university medicine within Europe and to provide excellent quality on an international level in the areas of teaching, research and health care.

In order to further increase the international visibility of the School of Medicine, we are striving for even stronger interdisciplinary links with our local, national and international partners, and we are seeking to focus even more on our main research areas. The establishment of the transCampus with King's College London is central to these aims. The transCampus comprises joint training programmes, research projects, appointments, institutes and administrative structures. Uniting complementary, excellent expertise in research and teaching and utilising joint resources allow us to establish a model that is currently unique in Europe, and significantly enhances the reputation of our organisations.

Together with the other Schools and Units at our University, we serve as a beacon when it comes to living in an international community that influences society and enters into a dialogue with it. We take a clear stand against discrimination and xenophobia and are publicly committed to Dresden as an open and tolerant science location. It is our declared goal to further increase the appeal of our institution to international scientists and students in order to attract and retain top talents and high-potential individuals from all regions of the world.

Specific objectives

As part of Technische Universität Dresden, the School of Medicine supports the internationalisation goals of the Rectorial Board in the following four defined action areas

1. The internationalisation of studying and teaching
2. The internationalisation of research
3. General conditions for the internationalisation of teaching and research
4. Improving TU Dresden's position on the international stage,

and emphasises the main School-specific aspects in the implementation process.

The internationalisation of studying and teaching

We seek to offer our students an education with an international orientation. The level of international mobility of our students – already high by national standards – is to be further promoted by increasing the number of exchange places in line with demand and within the context of creating structured exchange programmes.

Despite operating in a severely constricting legal framework, we are also endeavouring to expand the range of English-language courses on offer in order to ensure internationality in our degree programmes, regardless of personal mobility.

We intend to further expand the strong support we already provide for our international students in order to enable them to successfully complete their studies within the standard period.

The internationalisation of research

We encourage our scientists to use their excellent international networks to acquire international projects together with their partners, and to embrace the active exchange of ideas on an international level in order to continue to achieve top research results. The promotion of young scientists is central to this aim. The internationalisation of the doctoral degree phase and the expansion of joint PhD programmes are therefore to be a particular focus of our internationalisation efforts.

General conditions for the internationalisation of teaching and research

In order to increase the appeal of our School to international scientists and students, we are committed to the creation of an international campus. This also includes promoting the international composition of our academic staff.

However, our primary focus is on establishing and expanding a culture of service and welcome that enables our scientists from all over the world to quickly feel at home on campus.

Improving TU Dresden's position on the international stage

In the course of the Excellence Initiative, TU Dresden and thus also the School of Medicine have gained considerably in international visibility. We would like to continue this trend and establish the School of Medicine as an excellent, internationally recognised location. In addition to strong international partnerships between the institutes/clinics, we are focusing particularly on the further expansion of extensive strategic partnerships with selected institutions worldwide. Utilising common ground, but also complementarity, the strategic partners make it possible to reinforce the specific strengths in research and teaching at the School of Medicine in the long term. Currently, the School's strategic partners are:

- King's College London, Great Britain
- Wroclaw Medical University, Poland
- Flinders University, South Australia, in conjunction with the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)

For the first time in Europe, a transCampus is currently being set up with King's College London, setting new standards in the internationalisation of our Universities and significantly increasing the international visibility of our School.

Accompanying the process of internationalisation

We understand the internationalisation of our School as a process requiring continuous evaluation, reflection and further development. To this end, we are creating appropriate control and communication mechanisms to effectively advance the internationalisation of our School.