



# Strategic Internationalization at Freie Universität Berlin

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# Internationalisation Process

**Internationalisation** defined as

„the process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of higher education“ (Jane Knight)

**Internationalisation** experienced as

a slow, reactive, random, fragmented, non-coordinated response to the overwhelming number of international opportunities by very independent colleagues and the highly decentralized institutes of a university

# Why? Reasons to internationalise...

Branding

## International Standards

## War for Talents

Financial Incentives

Teaching Quality

Student Development

Because everyone is  
doing it

Profile

**Recruitment of Young  
Researchers**

Historical Obligation

## Enhancement of Research

Rankings

Visibility

Support for Developing Countries

Global Labour Market

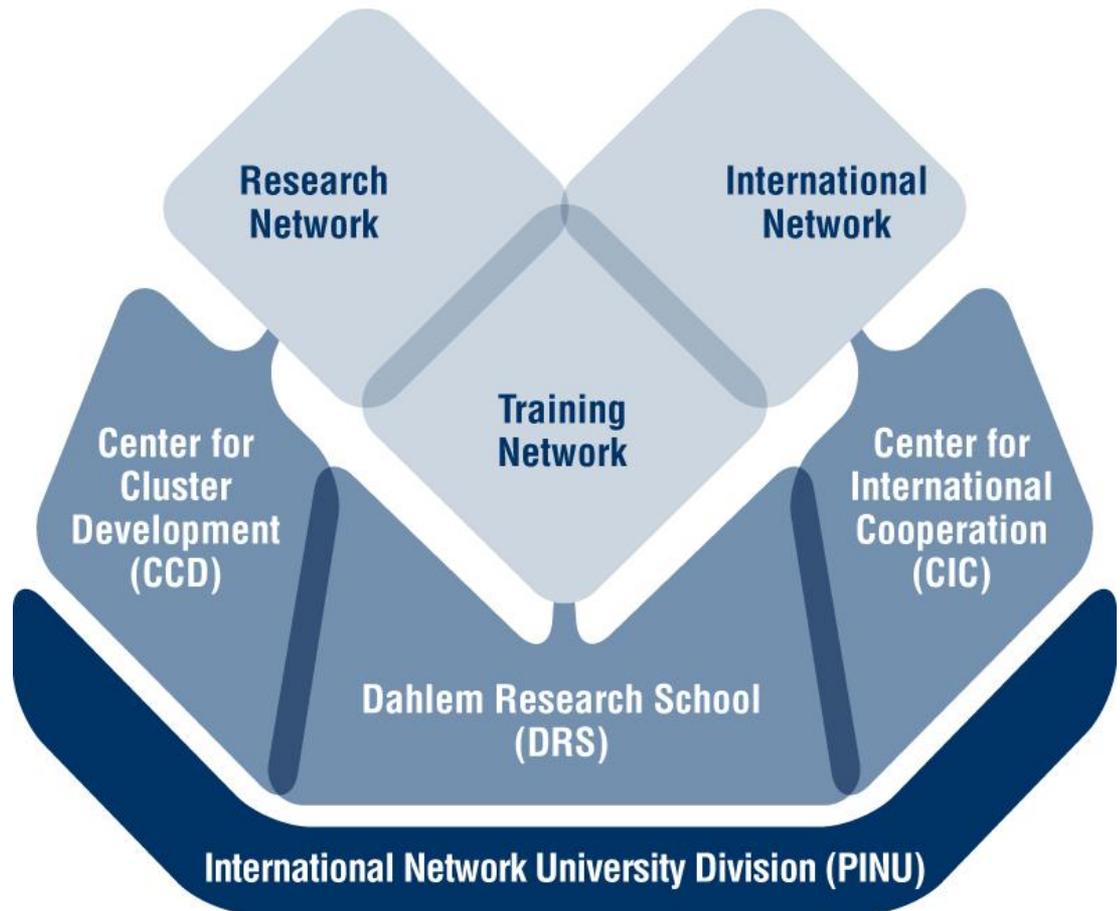
# Context: FU's Institutional Strategy

## International Network University

- 3** strategic centers
- 1** project management unit
- 7** international liaison offices

### Main purpose

promote top-level research



# Liaison Offices



# FU's Principles of Internationalisation

- ➔ **Primacy of Research & Teaching**
- ➔ **Sustainable Partnerships**
- ➔ **Top-level quality**
- ➔ **Strategy driven**
- ➔ **Global Responsibility**

## Center for International Cooperation

- ➔ Increase the university's attractiveness and visibility abroad
- ➔ Support the university's scientific international networks with a focus on PhD cooperation
- ➔ Promote and facilitate new research cooperation
- ➔ Increase general inbound and outbound mobility at graduate and research level
- ➔ Position the university in international higher education
- ➔ Take care of the university's international alumni

## What does this mean in reality?

- Lead a worldwide network of liaison offices
- Administer an intra-university funding program for internationalisation
- Advise researchers on international research proposals
- Produce & distribute marketing materials for programmes
- Co-host high profile events with focus on international themes
- Organize awareness tours for researchers
- **Develop a university wide internationalisation strategy**

# Challenges in Research

- ➔ Motivate already overworked researchers for more international engagement
- ➔ Expand structured international research cooperation as opposed to individual contacts
- ➔ Develop joint programs in graduate education, particularly international PhD programs
- ➔ Convince academics to focus on selected partnerships
- ➔ Recruit even more quality PhD-students and scientists from abroad

# Challenges in Student Mobility

- Increase & diversify the outgoing opportunities for students and ensure quality & recognition

Currently about 30% of FUB students have international experience, goal: 50%?

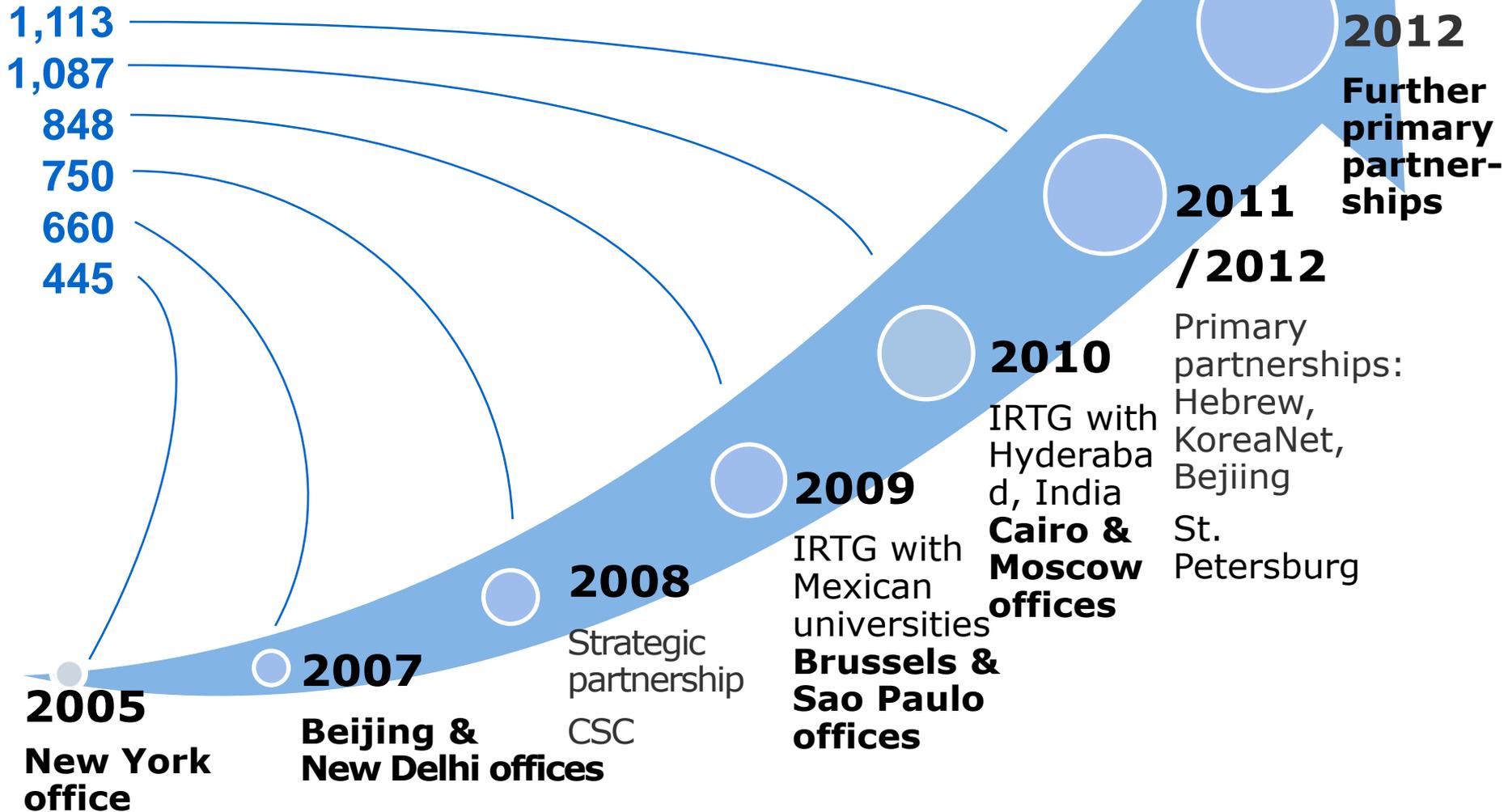
- Create Bachelor and Master programs with exchange windows
- Develop other programs with a specific international orientation (in English, bilingual, with joint degrees etc.)
- Develop better support mechanisms for incoming students

# Internationalisation Strategy

- ➔ Schools/Departments map their international activities and develop their own internationalisation agendas
- ➔ Consultation process with deans
- ➔ Analysis of existing partnerships, identify key institutional partnerships
- ➔ First “Primary Partnerships” signed (Hebrew U, Beida, U St. Petersburg), approx. 6 more to follow
- ➔ Analysis of the existing (student) exchange network – define how to optimize and/or expand it
- ➔ Internal (funding) competitions for new structured forms of mobility, i.e. projects aiming at structured mobility windows or joint/double degree programs
- ➔ Round tables with representatives for internationalization

# Overview: Selected First Results

## International doctoral students

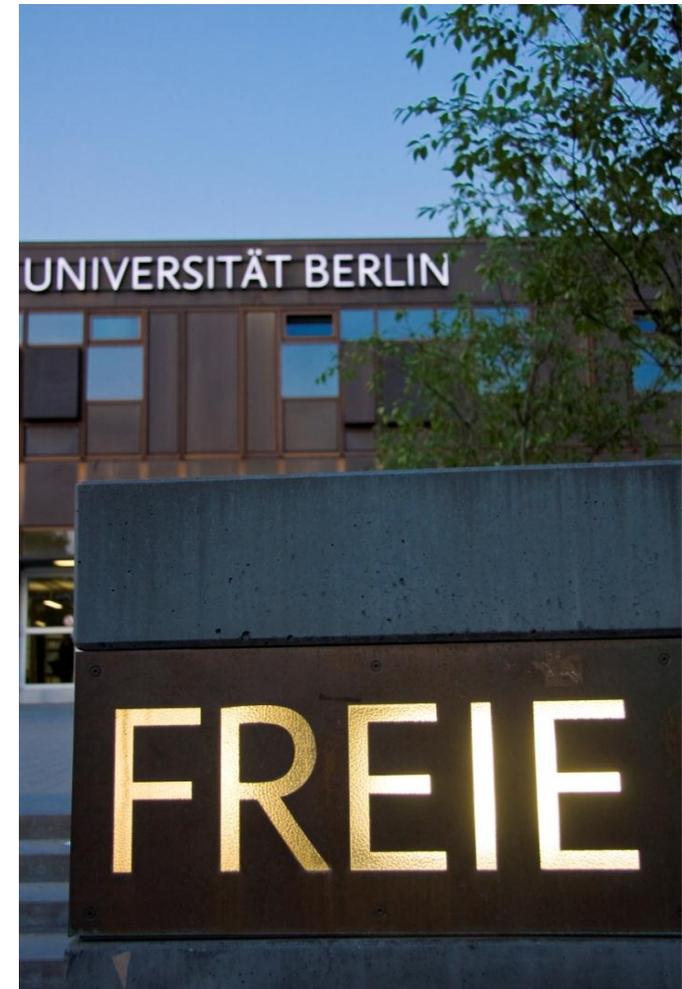




## The vision thing

Where we want to be in 2020:

The most innovative German university in internationalisation!





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