



# Internationalisation experiences and challenges of Warsaw University of Technology

Matching Exercise & Tuning Internationalisation Goals to Practice

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Warsaw University of Technology

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## WUT – basic facts

- 20 Faculties representing almost full engineering spectrum
- one of the biggest and top-ranked technical university in the CEE Region
- around 36 000 of students (regular, extramural and Ph.D.) and around 5 000 of staff
- 1185 regular international students (**4,2%**) – 76 nationalities
- 450 exchange European and international students
- very well organized and active students' life
- leading position in Poland regarding internationalization process (a number of programs in English, research and edu-projects)

## WUT – basic facts

- 89% of our graduates say that they are happy with their studies (alumni survey 2013)
- Our graduates are the most wanted by Polish employers (followed by Wrocław Univ. of Technology, AGH Kraków, Silesian Univ. of Technology, University of Warsaw and Warsaw School of Economics – 2013 survey)
- Practically no problem with employability of our graduates (82% search for a job < 3 months, 94% < 6 months)
- the biggest „provider” of top managers to the industry in Poland - almost 10% of CEOs/Presidents of the biggest Polish companies are our alumni (2014 survey)



Intentional and conscious realization of the process of University internationalisation requires prior response to the questions:

**WHY WE WANT TO INTERNATIONALISE OUR UNIVERSITY?**

and

**WHAT BENEFITS AND BURDENS INTERNATIONALISATION WOULD BRING FOR THE UNIVERSITY?**

In other words, the University management should know what is expected and how and why they decided to pursue this difficult and long process



# Three perspectives of internationalisation

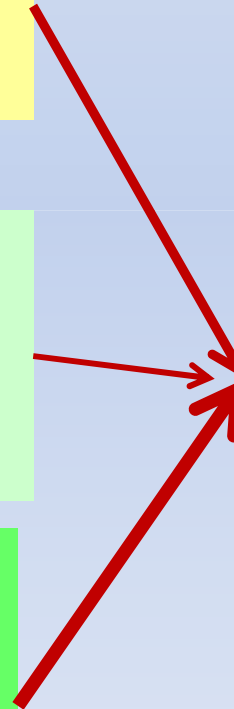
(impact on progress of the process)

**International** (EU policies and funds, best practices, world rankings, recommendations by academic organizations, international trends, etc.)

**National** (motivation through public subsidies, university assessment criteria, immigration policy and visas, autonomy in setting tuition fees, promotional initiatives, support by public institutions, etc.)

**University** (part of strategy, support and financial motivation, admission strategy, funds for visiting professors/researchers, support of international projects, mobility window, ECTS catalogue, organizing international conferences, etc. etc.)

**Internationalisation  
process at WUT**



# Key success factors of internationalization

## What do we need for success?



Internal support / „sponsor”



Internationalization strategy

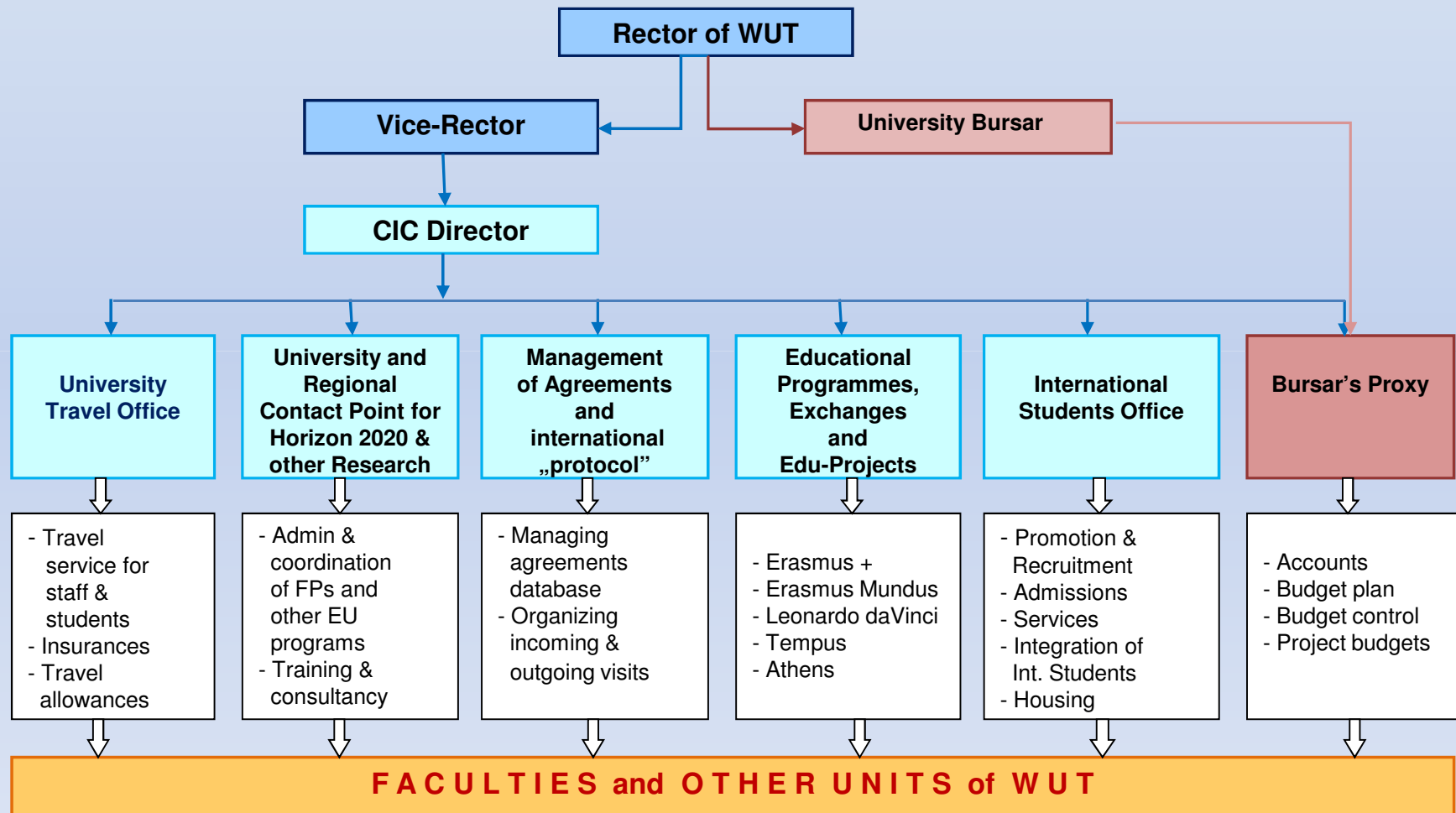


Organization



Finance

# Organization (1)





## Organization (2)

- **Semi-centralized** model
- **Comprehensive** range of all international aspects/issues
- Reasonable **autonomy** and appropriate power of attorneys
- university budget + **addiditional** sources of finance
- Reporting directly to top management – **not to school's administration**





# Jane Knight's Five Myths about Internationalisation

- Foreign students as internationalization agents
- International reputation as a proxy for quality

For WUT figures don't matter. Now quality is the hot issue.

For the B.Sc candidates Placement Tests (Math and English) and Foundation Year. Support for students from the Region – University scholarship program for international candidates studying in Polish, students with Polish roots, etc.

- International institutional agreements (more is better)

WUT introduced the internal procedure for concluding agreements with foreign HEIs - assessment in terms of quality and relevance.



# Jane Knight's Five Myths about Internationalisation

- **International accreditation (more is better)**

WUT strives to maintain its leading national position and to be the Regional leader. Our aims are national accreditation and professional accreditation

- **Global branding (more marketing better education)**

We work only on selected educational markets – e.g. former Soviet countries, Middle East countries, etc.

Internationalization as a instrument to achieve institutional goals.



## Critical issues – case of WUT

- balance between numbers of foreign and national students (especially at the most popular fields of studies in English)
- quality of teaching process (language proficiency, admission criteria, quality indicators, success ratio)
- efficient use of EU programmes and funds 2014-2020
- more educational and research projects coordinated by WUT
- admission model versus success ratio
- effective international promotion and marketing (online & abroad)
- effective online recruitment (parallel to traditional overseas trips)
- low index of international publications and citations of WUT authors



## Successes – case of WUT

- current number of projects co-financed by EU (4 x coordinated Erasmus Mundus, 8 x partner in EM, 2 x TEMPUS in the field of internationalisation )
- significant increase of international students, including cooperation with governmental agencies from China Oman and Saudi Arabia
- increase in number of foreign teachers and researchers (but still below our needs and expectations)
- active participation in HORIZON 2020 (79 project proposals submitted)
- creating a system of measuring the level of internationalization of the University and the Faculties
- establishing a comprehensive concept of Placements Tests and Foundation Year (implementation from October 2015)



Thank you !

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