

DRAFT – Embracing the World

“Embracing the World” leverages Concordia’s strengths, maximizes the efforts of our faculty, expands opportunities for students, and establishes and further strengthens our partnerships.

This is a dynamic document; that is, these words are not cast in stone. It is meant to be a blueprint for action and a magnifier for the other eight institutional directions. We expect that it will evolve as the implementation process unfolds.

Vision

Bold and vibrant, Concordia University will establish transformative cross-border alliances to inspire innovation and contribute to solving global challenges.

Our diverse community will continue to welcome the best ideas and talent, and our positive contributions will radiate out from Montreal into the world beyond.

Top Four Goals

1- Demonstrate research leadership in addressing global challenges

Building on our academic and research strengths, we will increase the promotion of the impact of our discoveries and forge global partnerships to contribute to providing solutions to global challenges.

Suggested Transformative Actions

- Establish and lead global networks in key research areas such as aerospace, synthetic biology, Information Communication Technologies, sustainability and media design to make high-impact contributions to global issues

- Double the number of cotutelles and international post-docs to support the global research networks
- Launch, with a network of select institutions, international graduate classes, symposia and graduate student field schools at home and abroad
- Provide support to faculty in preparation of international grant applications and hosting international conferences.

2- Establish an academic environment that fosters the mobility of individuals

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and interdependent, and subject to rapid changes in technology, skills and ideas, it is imperative to create flexible academic structures and programs that support the growing movement of people.

Suggested Transformative Actions

- Support the launch of a North American Erasmus (academic exchange) Program
- Assist Faculties in establishing double degrees' programs and international field schools to diversify our offering of international programs and experiential learning opportunities
- Create a position to provide logistical support for academic visitors and increase our intake of international researchers and interns
- Harmonize and streamline the academic exchange processes among faculties to foster the number of students going abroad
- Establish an international student recruitment plans for the undergraduate and graduate programs
- Develop with Concordia alumni and friends opportunities for international coop placements and internships.

3- Implement global next generation initiatives

Concordia will harness new global opportunities and help generate support to better advance our community.

Suggested Transformative Actions

- Explore the feasibility of creating a foundation in Europe to open doors for EU funding (similar to the Concordia University Foundation of Hong Kong)
- Establish a database on faculty members' international linkages to better identify Concordia's geographical strengths
- Advance the use of technologies to connect our community internationally and attract international students (for example: creating apps for study abroad, Concordia networks, attracting students, etc.)
- Extend our know-how globally in specific areas such as District3, knowledgeOne, Fablabs, Continuing Education and Executive Programs
- Collaborate with federal and provincial governments and private partners to enhance the promotion and placement of Concordia Start-ups internationally.

4- Globalize our outreach for greater impact and visibility

Concordia holds the distinction of being committed to community outreach and success. Our faculty, students and staff contribute daily to the making of Montreal's future. While our local engagement remains a seminal force, it will be critical during the coming years to define Concordia's community as borderless, open to international partners and active in world projects.

Suggested Transformative Actions

- Develop an international student recruitment strategy (undergraduate and graduate)

- Launch a Concordia Global Leadership Network that involves faculty and students in developing world projects and hosting yearly forum on global challenges
- Harness Montreal's strength as a global hub in attracting and managing international organizations through the establishment of a think-tank on cities' globalization. The think tank will focus on urban globalization/ part of Urban Futures
- Work actively on enhancing our positioning in global rankings
- Globalize our continuing and executive education programs.

Anticipated Outcomes

- 1- Greater global visibility
- 2- Many community members involved in international programs and projects
- 3- Greater support for international initiatives
- 4- Global reputation as a welcoming place for the best ideas.

Resources

To help us reach our goals, support will be made available from the following sources:

- International Mobility Funds – Quebec Ministry for Higher Education
- Funding for international calls – provincial, federal and foreign sources
- Matching funds with partner organizations and institutions
- Advancement

In addition, a review of the international organizational structures in the university will be conducted to streamline processes and maximize the use of resources.