

DK is a leading cultural and educational institution rooted in the Danish cultural heritage with a special commitment to the issues of sustainability, social inclusion, cultural diversity, and to creating responsible economic growth.

The international strategy says: “DK wants to inspire, challenge and develop Danish design and the role, relevance and reach of the designer in a global world, and function as a progressive and creative knowledge- and innovation capacity with local roots and international format”.

Danish design and designers have an international reputation and bear a significant importance for Danish export.

Training professional designers means preparing students for a globally oriented profession with high focus on practical experience and business network. With globalization, global market, long distance production, multicultural societies, the designer’s workplace has expanded and it is no longer enough to be able to react to your local market. Therefore, it is essential for the school to give our students an education preparing them for global action and providing them with intercultural competences.

For these reasons internationalization is a strong part of the general objectives of the school.

Our main international goal is to become one of the top 60 design institutions in the world within the next few years. In order to achieve that we have set up some actions that we focus on. E.g. focus on international communication, strengthening the English website, welcome more international Master students, international focus in student semester agreements, participation in international events and exhibitions, holding an annually international design camp, having outposts in Shanghai and Ghana where we hold joint courses with our partner institutions, international Ph.D. seminars etc.



Kolding School of Design divides its international work into four different levels: Overseas where we focus on institutional collaboration in China and Ghana. European where we focus on student and teacher exchange. In Europe the research is strong so we have special partnerships with e.g. Politecnico di Milano, London College of Fashion and University of Borås.

Scandinavian where we are part of a Nordplus network called Cirrus where we focus on student (both one semester exchange and Express Mobility) and teacher exchange and joint projects.

Co-operation within Denmark with international companies. E.g. we have several EU financed projects where we combine companies, students, teachers, researchers and NGOs to solve a specific topic.

In our curriculum we focus on international collaborations included in every study year. For our first year students internationalization focuses on international guest lecturers and introduction to international design history.

Second year have the possibility for a one month stay in Kumasi, Ghana, where they focus on learning different design methods together with Ghanaian students. Based on the experiences from the Master design camp we plan to arrange a design camp for students, teachers and researchers from our Nordic network Cirrus based on the Nordplus Express Mobility scheme.

Third year can participate in a one month project in Shanghai where we teach in a joint project with students and teachers from Tongji University on social issues and sustainability. Locally based companies are always part of the project. Fashion and textile students can participate in a pattern making project where they sell them on a fair in Paris.

On Master level we offer an international design camp where students from 15 top international design institutions send their best students to work with our students and Danish companies on a specific topic. <http://designcamp2012.dskd.dk> It is also possible for the students to go on exchange and it is mandatory for our students to go on a traineeship which many do abroad. The final semester consists of a graduation project often done with international companies.



In general, we use several international guest teachers as we always seek to find the best person to teach a specific topic.

By this, we can offer our students and staff internationalization at home.

The EU cooperation is of special importance for DK due to the design tradition being very strong here.

The objectives and priorities for the EU cooperation are:

The exchange of students and staff. The co-operation within the school network and participation in development of new networks within education, research, business and benchmarking. Network based collaborations with selected companies, containing both internships and research. Securing the evaluation and qualification of our education and student services.

DK does not participate in double/multiple/joint degrees at the moment but collaborate with other institutions on project and research level. The reason is that we are consolidating our Master education over the next years. When so done, we might look into this area.