

**D****Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)*****D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Our institution has a number of historical relationships, e.g. with institutions in France, Germany, Hungary and Romania, Canada, Indonesia and Korea. These were often small institutions with, particular those in the Third World, lower academic standards, and the input was therefore somewhat one-sided, coming from our side.

In the more recent past we have made an effort to make these existing relationships more reciprocal and also to establish new relationships with institutions in the African continent, Belgium, Brasil, India, and the US, adopting a similar more reciprocal approach.

In the past student mobility has had a low profile. We are now working at raising the profile as we believe international experience is a valuable addition to the education of our 1st and 2nd cycle students. Studying abroad is a new endeavour for our 3rd cycle students, but recently one PhD student has gone abroad to do one year of his programme at an institution elsewhere (see below).

Staff mobility has been a regular phenomenon in the historical relationships, and we are now making new steps to incorporate staff mobility also in the new relationships we are developing, all of this in a more reciprocal approach.

So far we have not had double/multiple/joint degrees. However, two recent developments indicate that things are changing in this respect. (1) The institution is preparing a new two year Research Master programme and in that context the issue of joint degrees has come up for discussion. (2) The 3rd cycle student mentioned above has extended his one year stay abroad for another year and his PhD will be a joint degree.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Not applicable.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

- Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

In modern societies economics more and more become one of the most important factors in political decisions. We agree with people who state that life is more than just economics, even when we realise the great importance of economics. Societies also needs philosophical and religious resources to deal with the challenges they face, e.g. immigration. As a humanities institution we want to make a contribution to that aspect of human life and broaden the context in which political decisions are made.

- Improving the quality and relevance of higher education / Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

Our limited experience so far has shown that international exposure is a challenge for both staff and students to look at familiar things in a new way and to realise the strenghts and weaknesses of the cultures we are part of. In the new Research Master programme we are developing for international students we aim to present the tradition we stand in to students from different cultural backgrounds and see them interact, and also to have staff from institutions abroad participate in the teaching of the programme.

- Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

Being a humanities educational institution the link between education and research on the one hand and business on the other is of a rather limited nature.

- Improving governance and funding

Our institution only recently started receiving partial government funding. A programme like ERASMUS is a very welcome incentive to provide means for mobility which in the past were only very limited.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)