

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

1.

Our development strategy incorporates and promotes the European dimension of education, creates favourable conditions for the development of multilateral cooperation between educational institutions, enterprises, economic organisations and local government organisations, places emphasis on increasing student and academic staff mobility, ensures mutual recognition of study and teaching periods abroad.

Under the Programme, our objectives are to prepare students to live in a multiethnic and multicultural EU information society, and to ensure professional development of our academic staff.

We intend to increase our participation in multilateral projects for the development of new study programmes as well as to develop cooperation with partner HEIs, institutions and enterprises. We are also determined to continue our cooperation with our present partners and to establish new contacts.

When choosing our partners, we adopt the criterion of correspondence between the particular fields of study and research and scientific areas. We look for potential partners in the neighbouring countries, including both EU countries (e.g. The Czech Republic, The Slovak Republic, Germany), and non-EU ones (e.g. Ukraine). We are currently completing a partnership agreement with a Lviv-based HEI on scientific and research cooperation and student work placements in educational institutions cooperating with our school and the Ukrainian partner.

Bearing in mind the profile of our institution, we mainly focus our attention on student and staff mobility in such areas as pedagogy (educational studies) and sociology. In the immediate future, we intend to find a foreign partner for cooperation in the field of dietetics.

It is our priority to ensure the highest quality of student and academic staff mobility. To this end, we have implemented study programmes complying with the guidelines of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, we issue a Diploma Supplement (in Polish and in English), and we recognise study/teaching/traineeship periods abroad.

To date, we have not participated in the procedure for awarding Joint Masters degrees for double/multiple/joint master programmes.

It is our intent to follow a policy of non-discrimination (gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff), and we are determined to accept foreign and disabled students.

We will make every effort to ensure that any signs of discrimination, xenophobia or racism be eradicated.

We commit ourselves to adhere to the following principles:

- mobility will be carried out only within the framework of prior agreements between institutions;
- no fees will be charged to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities;
- study periods carried out abroad which are equivalent to one semester will be recognised as study periods carried out at the home HEI;
- study/traineeship periods carried out abroad will be fully recognised based on a Learning Agreement (for studies and traineeships);
- the highest quality of organisation of student and teaching staff mobility will be ensured;
- information on the Programme and any activities carried out within its framework will be regularly updated;
- equal academic treatment and services for home students and incoming mobile participants will be ensured; incoming mobile participants will be integrated into the institution's everyday life.

Since our institution offers chiefly part-time programmes of study, we are more interested in traineeship mobility than in study mobility of students. Under the Programme, academic teachers will give open lectures at partner HEIs, engage in exchange of experience, and establish cooperation in the field of research and development. Non-academic staff mobility will be focused on exchange of experience and sharing good practice in administrative service and increasing its quality.

We are interested in establishing contacts with HEIs and local enterprises and organisations, leading to the development of innovative solutions and application of good practices related to the broadly conceived education and student/academic staff development.

We assume that the Programme will give us an opportunity to participate in international research and scientific projects, as well as to increase the professional and educational mobility of our students.

2.

The procedure for organising and implementing international mobility projects begins with setting out and negotiating the terms and conditions of the international cooperation

agreement. This is followed by mutual study visits, during which both parties can familiarize themselves more closely with their offers as well as review and modify the proposed terms and conditions of the agreement. After the agreement has been signed, a Project Coordination Team is appointed and each of its members is assigned a specific task.

Subsequently, designated members of the Team launch a promotional and information campaign, using the institution's website and social networking services as well as organising information meetings for students and staff members and setting up an information desk for all concerned.

Next, the procedure for selecting, screening and preparing eligible project participants is initiated. An integral part of the project implementation strategy is its monitoring.

3.

We expect that thanks to our participation in the Programme our students, academic staff and administrative staff will have an opportunity to exchange their experience and enhance their professional knowledge, which they will find useful on the European labour market. A very important aspect is focusing on acquiring real competence, which significantly enhances labour market opportunities. International activities carried out within the European and global educational and research space as well as extensive relations with foreign partners will create favourable conditions for the internationalisation of studies and scientific research. We want to implement international projects which will help us (thanks to the exchange of experience and mutual cooperation) improve our internal quality management system in terms of enhancing the quality of education and research activity domestically and, most of all, internationally. This should open up new opportunities for scientific research and developing creative and innovative curriculums adapted to the demands and needs of the social, economic and technological realities of modern Europe. To ensure the highest quality of education, steps will be taken to introduce a complex quality assurance system and emphasis will be placed on continuous staff development. Following good standards and the mutual exchange of experience in the field of administration (being one of the objectives of mobility activities) can have a positive impact on the institution's management system. Participation in international projects, establishing contacts with foreign partners (both in the educational sector and in the business one) will enhance our chances of obtaining funding from various sources. The benefits (e.g. enhancing the quality of education and research activity) of participating in international mobility programmes will allow us to improve our public image and consolidate our position on the regional market, which will help us implement our overall

strategy. One of the main priorities included in our institution's strategy is the intensification of activities aimed at developing cooperation with regional institutions and enterprises with a view to developing and implementing compatible programmes and projects intended to adequately adapt the educational offer and enable students to acquire real competence as well as to promote the development of scientific research meeting the needs of the regional market.