

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The strategy acknowledges the key contribution of mobile staff and students, and the participation in European and international cooperation projects, to the quality of its higher education programmes and student experience.

The HEI contributes to the European Union's modernisation and internationalisation agenda in its education including the following priorities:

1. increasing achievement levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs
2. improving the quality and relevance of higher education
3. strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation
4. linking higher education, research and business for excellences and regional development
5. improving governance and funding

The HEI will accomplish to the 5 priorities of the Erasmus Charter by developing the student and staff mobility not only in Europe but worldwide in the framework of internationalization collaborating to the development of new projects and being part of different networks. Increasing the double degrees already active in the university.

The internationalisation strategy of this university is to offer an international experience to all of its students either via the curriculum or mobility and to encourage broad participation in its academic and administrative staff via the different international opportunities connected to these two main areas of educational activity.

In terms of the curriculum, all three schools offer programmes taught either partially or entirely in English, that are open both to exchange and full time degree seeking students. Given the limited number of Italian language speakers outside of Italy the vast majority of academic mobility and exchange takes place in this part of the curriculum. Efforts are underway to further strengthen the international curriculum with a new Bachelor of Business taught entirely in English, a new Msc in International Business specialising in "Made in Italy" and two specialisation pathways for an international career in Law will all start over the next three years.

Curriculum and mobility are closely interconnected with greater emphasis now being placed on identifying mobility windows where students are encouraged to go abroad. All students with a minimum of 60 ECTS can apply for an international mobility experience provided they meet the language requirements (the university provides additional language training to support students).

The University continues to expand its network of international partners to ensure a broad variety of destinations both in Europe and beyond. This is not only to ensure choice for outgoing students but also to ensure greater diversity of incoming students in the classroom.

The University continues to develop a range of activities with its partners from semester exchanges and double degrees to intensive programmes and virtual mobility semesters to ensure a broad range of alternatives to students.

All partnerships are based on semester exchanges and more strategic relations for double degrees etc are developed with partnerships that work well in both direction of flows and where there is a high degree of compatibility.

Partners are selected on a number of criteria such as geographical location, academic standing and programme compatibility. Given the rapidly changing nature of the world economy, new countries may emerge as potential locations and the University seeks to ensure that it has partners in all countries that are of interest to the particular disciplines it offers.

The most important target groups are first and second level students where the university has currently a mobility rate of 44% of graduates and has set itself a target of 50%. The major focus is currently on mobility for study purposes although placement mobility is being developed more in order to offer international work experience to students.

A strong focus has been put on double degree programmes. The current offering has met with increasing student interest and has now reached saturation. New double degree programmes are being developed in order to meet demand.

Academic and administrative staff mobility are carried out in smaller numbers via the International Office, though many academics realise mobility through their own networks and funding sources.

The strategy for the next 5 years will be to further enhance international opportunities for students and staff and this will be achieved by:

1. Intensifying language learning opportunities for all students
2. Internationalising the curriculum through a broader range of courses in English and greater involvement of international faculty
3. Identifying new partner institutions in Europe and the world in line with the updated study programmes offered at the university
4. Strengthening current partnerships through the development of double and joint degrees in all three schools
5. Exploring innovative partnerships for new forms of international experience e.g. virtual mobility
6. Developing a broader range of summer schools, with a particular focus on emerging economies
7. Increasing the overall number of graduates with international experience from 44% to 50%
8. Raising number of mobile students in programmes with lower than average levels across university
9. Developing international partnerships for international work experience
10. Building stronger relations with international graduate recruiters

The University is committed to providing high quality education, both in content and pedagogy and has joined a number of projects that promote teaching and training. It is currently involved in an Erasmus Project for the development of a Joint Master in Public Management (MIPAM) with a consortium of European partners. It is part of a consortium of mainly European partners that brings together 20 universities, each with a faculty member and group of 6 students to work together around a common theme during one semester, which culminates in a short mobility of one week for all participants.

It is also involved in a Tempus project to bring best practice in managing internationalisation to a number of colleges in Israel.

Its strategy for the next five years is to strengthen this practice by seeking to enter a greater number of networks and consortia, both in Europe and the world, where it can enhance its own teaching and training and share its experience with others.

The University's mission is to provide relevant education in the disciplines it offers, and internationalisation is an inherent component. This is achieved not only through mobility, but by building a strong internationalised curriculum: internationally relevant content taught in English-language. This provides opportunity to international students, but also to its own students who are offered an international experience at home, through the presence of international students and staff in the classroom.

The university will continue to promote high levels of mobility alongside engagement in international projects and encouragement of staff mobility to ensure that its programmes are continuously enhanced by good practice in its partner institutions and provide opportunity to share its own experiences with others.

The university's mission is also to support regional industry not only through graduate employment but also technology transfer. It was set up by local industry and is committed to providing knowledge services that can enhance and contribute to regional development. It also makes extensive use of local business knowledge by involving local professionals and business people in the classroom and other academic activities.

It will continue to build strong regional links, both through education and research.

The University, while recognised by the Ministry for Higher Education, is part of the non-state sector in Italy and has always been required to fund its own activities, receiving only a small contribution from the state. Its main income is from fees and is well aware of the need to provide quality education and research services. Its governance structure has always reflected the need to be a responsive, outward facing institution, reflected in its Board of Directors, made up principally of external stakeholders, and the division of academic and management tasks in its Senior Management Team.

It will continue to pay attention to the need for good governance and diversified funding source.