

**D**

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

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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]

Umeå University has always had an ambition to offer internationally competitive education and thus play a prominent role in the global education arena. Internationalisation is being brought into focus through our newly formulated strategy initiative, Vision 2020. This strategy states that our education should have a strong international dimension and that research shall have a strong international impact. The strategy emphasises the interaction between research, education, collaboration and innovation that challenges boundaries and plays a crucial role in the region's development. The ambition is to give our students, faculty and staff unique opportunities for professional and personal development and providing society with new knowledge and creative people. Some of the key components specifically addressed in Vision 2020 are:

- To be nationally and internationally respected by offering attractive and qualitative education at all levels that is characterised by national and international movements.
- To increase the level of incoming and outgoing students in order to create a learning environment where internationalisation is seamlessly woven throughout the curriculum.
- To offer working and teaching environments with international dimensions in order to raise the level of educational quality and to become a more attractive workplace. International exchange for faculty and staff provide an excellent opportunity for continuous pedagogic and scientific development and professional and personal development.
- To strengthen the incentives for participation within internationalisation at the whole university by implementing a policy for acknowledging the important value a mobility period will bring to the personal development of outgoing researchers, teachers and staff as well as to the university as a whole.

When forming partnerships and collaboration, Umeå University has well-established strategic processes to ensure that partnerships are appropriate and mutually beneficial in order to ensure sustainability. We seek partners that can complement and bring a new dimension to our programmes and with whom we believe we can achieve proper reciprocity. Educational standards are an important aspect, but we also seek out partners who can provide our students with a wide variety of social and cultural experiences. Additional key factors when choosing a partner include:

- student interest
- research collaborations and opportunities for advanced students and graduate students to participate in research
- university reputation in terms of both academic rankings and student opinion
- the possibilities for students to come into contact with working life experiences
- possibilities for staff exchanges

The university also maintains and is developing several partnerships with universities and organisations in developing countries where the focus is on supporting academic and scientific development in these regions, as well as providing our students with diverse learning environments.

Being part of the Erasmus programme since the mid nineties, Umeå University has extensive collaboration with European universities. Furthermore, we have strong links and long established collaboration with partner universities in the US, Canada, Oceania, as well as with organisations in India and China. Expanding interest in and availability to mobility in Asia during recent years has led to several new initiatives in, for example, South Korea, China and Singapore. Umeå University also maintains several partnerships with universities in developing countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

Our mobility activities are targeted to all levels of studies and all personnel directly related to study and research activities. Mobility activities in the early phases of students' education are more focused on providing students with the opportunity to be exposed to new knowledge, customs and experiences which follow from interacting with people from different cultures either by sending students abroad or by bringing international students to our programmes. At advanced levels of study we focus on providing students with skills and opportunities, to develop networks, in order to be competitive in an international job market and scientific community.

Faculty and staff mobility is used to enrich the curricula by providing students at home the chance to take part of international education by being taught by teachers from abroad as well as benefiting from the experiences their own teachers have had from teaching abroad. Supporting staff (advisors and administrators) with international experiences are better equipped to help our students prepare for an international mobility and international job markets.

Within the framework of the programme, Umeå University will continue to develop double degrees and a strategy for the promotion and development for joint degrees has recently been presented.

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]

International Projects are initiated at the central level as well as at the departmental level in accordance with the principles of Umeå University, a higher education institution (HEI) with a decentralised organisation and a local responsibility. When there are international mobility projects at central level with a university-wide interest, general management and support is coordinated at International Relations.

Departments and faculties are also initiators of international mobility projects, and, being the experts of their respective fields, the coordination is usually self-organised yet with support from the central level. It is essential for Umeå University that projects are implemented within the framework and guidelines set by the university board.

Umeå University coordinates and participates in successful projects within the Erasmus programme as well as Tempus and Nordplus. We will continue to be active within EU-programmes as well as other international programmes that can support/enable student and staff mobility, and provide a multicultural dimension to the education and the campus. This is also beneficial for our ambition to have a strong internationalisation at home.

We are successful within Linnaeus-Palme where we have many departmental coordinated mobility projects aiming at strengthening the relationship with HEIs in third countries and to develop a deeper understanding of internationalisation among students and teachers.

Strategic partnerships/collaboration with, for example, industrialised countries is also being encouraged in order to facilitate exchange of good practices between institutions and to encourage transparency and openness.

International projects are presented on the university's web site in order to promote understanding and expand knowledge and collaboration. It is also a good mark of excellence for external interest, demonstrating that Umeå University is active on the international arena.

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]

Umeå University is one of Europe's leading universities with regard to innovative physical and virtual environments. A large part of our courses integrate campus and online teaching, and flexible forms of teaching can be carried out regardless of time and space. This provides excellent opportunities for everyone to study and places a focus on lifelong learning.

We create platforms for continuous education, having a top-class research infrastructure that stimulates the research environment and makes Umeå University a rewarding choice for the researcher. Financial support is also a key component when it comes to attracting young researchers to Umeå University. In 2008 Umeå University implemented a unique form of grant funding titled "Young Researcher Award" with the aim to identify and support our talented young researchers early in their career.

We have a strong focus on employability, providing the students with guidance and training for this purpose during their education. The Career Centre offers career planning for students at all levels. The university hosts several fairs with the focus on learning more about the labour market and making important contacts for the future, etc. Alumni work focuses on marketing by highlighting successful former students and thereby boosting the university's reputation towards the labour market as being a top-class university. The alumni can also serve as an important asset for the university when seeking information about the relevance of the education we offer.

In addition, there will be focus on creating opportunities for training during the education. Some faculties and departments have this built in to the programme and also offer available work placements. The possibility to apply for funding for international training within the Erasmus programme has been greatly appreciated by the students.

In the newly formulated strategy initiative, Vision 2020, Umeå University stresses the importance of the collaboration that we have with public and private entities that creates a mutual exchange and at the same time contributes towards improving the quality of education and research.

Umeå University runs several research projects with industrial partners through the Industrial Graduate School for Research and Innovation, IDS. The aim of IDS is to meet commerce and industry's need for leaders within advanced research and development.

Grants Office supports external stakeholders - enterprises, organisations and individuals - in finding partners for collaboration in research and development, and for joint action in areas of mutual interest. International Relations supports collaboration opportunities related to higher education in the partner regions, initiating and implementing new international mobility and cooperation activities and also strengthening already existing cooperation.

The university will also increase the joint efforts to build strategic partnerships in the future.

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

**E**

## Endorsement of the application

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

Place: Umeå

Name: Lena Gustafsson

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 07/05/2013

*I have read and accept the Privacy statement*



Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)

Original stamp or seal of the Institution

