

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (OVERALL STRATEGY)**

### **INSTITUTION'S INTERNATIONAL (EU AND NON-EU) STRATEGY**

The University of Navarra is a dynamic university of over 13,000 students enrolled in the many programs of study provided by its 15 schools and institutes. It is a growing international university with diverse student population and 7% international faculty. 14% of the student population are international not including incoming Erasmus students and exchange students from all over the globe. It was awarded the title of Campus of International Excellence by the Spanish Government in 2011, receiving a research grant for research projects in Nutrition, Tropical Medicine, Bioengineering and the Humanities and Social Sciences. The university has developed an internationalization strategy setting out the main goals and objectives over a three- year period. One of these goals is to increase and expand the international experience of students and staff. To date, more than 350 partnership agreements have been signed with leading universities around the world, of these 322 are Erasmus partnerships. However, the University aims to improve access to mobility programs for all students from all schools and therefore aims to facilitate the growth of partnerships across the university. Erasmus activities are key to the success of the internationalization strategy. The Central International Office offers guidance and advice to all schools on the negotiation and signing of partnership agreements. Usually the international office of the relevant school will approach a potential Erasmus partner on the recommendation of a faculty member. Fundamental to the identification of potential partners is that the institution offers programs of high standard, whereby our university can accept their teaching and assessment procedures without requiring any further work or assessment. Our university will examine the potential partner's programmes in detail including the similar and complementary programs, credits on offer, learning outcomes teaching/ learning approaches and assessment methods. Fundamental to the signing of the agreement is whether the mobility window for our students can be facilitated by the potential partner. Aside from the academic quality of the institution, obviously language is an important factor and to this extent geographical area informs the process. Furthermore depending on the focus of the particular program or research project, the location of the university or research institute will also guide this process. For example, the University is home to 8 research centres which cover a wide range of areas.

Fundamental to the development of these research centres is the idea of corporate social responsibility in an international context. The most recent centre is the institute of Tropical Health which focuses on research into diseases affecting over one billion people in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Academic quality, similarity of the program, language of instruction, mobility window also inform the negotiation of international partnerships. The University of Navarra is committed to increasing the access of target groups to mobility programs. Not only does it provide student with academic experience abroad through another language, the student acquires intercultural competencies and understanding also outside the classroom. This is invaluable and enriching for the student personally. One of the objectives in the internationalization strategy of the University of Navarra is to increase the international experience of students, of all levels on the one hand and staff and teaching staff on the other. The University is very aware of the benefits of exchange for all and therefore is supporting the promotion of exchange

across all schools. The central office monitors the number of agreements in all schools and is therefore aware which schools need more support in growing their number of agreements. With respect to student mobility at the first and second cycle, it is clear that schools that offer more courses in English find it easier to sign agreements for student mobility. Another goal of the internationalization strategy is to increase the number of subjects available in English in all schools, where relevant to the subject. This will be beneficial to domestic and incoming students and will also facilitate the signing of agreements. Furthermore it will benefit teaching staff who will develop their language skills in the process. Another objective of the University is to develop joint Masters programs in the future which would thus benefit second cycle students. The university encourages teaching staff to participate in Erasmus mobility programs. One of the goals of the strategy is that 50% of all teaching staff will have gone on a mobility program by 2016 and that 10% of all non-teaching staff will have carried out a mobility program by 2016. Staff who participate in mobility programs will receive recognition.

**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.**

The Internationalization strategy of the University has identified some key areas including the increase of the number of partnerships with other Higher Education Institutions from various geographical locations together with the need to work with existing partners and key stakeholders in Africa, India and South America to develop volunteering programs encouraging participation from students in this university and also students from partner universities outside these countries and students from potential partner universities. Through Students for Social Service, several volunteering projects throughout the world are currently being promoted. Students who participate in volunteering projects are awarded credits. The University also recognises the need of engaging with regional authorities and has been cooperating with the regional government by sending international students to local schools to engage younger students in inter culture dialogue and promote the importance of studying abroad. The University of Navarra Business Foundation works with the schools to promote strong connections between business world-wide and universities and other education and research institutions depending on the demands of the particular school program. Another key objective of the strategy is to create international programs that involve a consortia of universities (joint or double masters and doctoral programs).

**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**

It is of paramount importance that our students can be confident that they are highly qualified and equipped with transferable skills necessary to meet the requirements of the dynamic job market. In our strategy for internationalization, we have identified the importance of Curricula development in key areas: the increase in the number of subjects being taught through English in all programs, increase in the number of bilingual degrees and Masters programs taught through English and the addition of an international dimension to the curricula (where relevant). Furthermore, with the development of joint masters and doctoral programs with a consortia of universities, students will benefit from the academic and cultural input of several universities. In cooperation with the University

of Navarra's Business Foundation, the University aims to increase the number and quality of internships and is studying the possibility of including it as mandatory for every degree program. Through the admissions financial aid office, the university increases access to higher education by providing financial assistance to incoming students and existing students. Students receive ongoing support whether academic, financial, health or personal through various students services and counselling. In relation to the quality of teaching and researcher training, the HR strategy sets out the importance of hiring staff with international experience and the need to hire more international faculty. The university aims to further develop the project of School for Teacher training to include research personnel who will take on teaching duties and provide courses on the training of professors who will be teaching through subjects through English. Researcher training can be improved through an increase in the number of international collaborations. Further staff and students will benefit from an increase in the number of partnerships and the number of traineeships. As a research university, there are over 8 research centres in the university including CIMA (centre for applied medical research), CEIT, ICS etc. For example, CEIT is a private multidisciplinary non-profit research centre, closely connected to the Faculty of Engineering which aims to provide industry with services through the development of technical research projects and to form young researchers and PhD students. The Research Development office assists schools and research centres in finding funding and also assists in knowledge transfer and development of patents which involves collaborating with local industry. The Research Development office and financial aid office act as a funding mechanism for excellence. There are other programs like Young talent program or Join Us program which recognise academic excellence and offer student great internship opportunities.