

Pázmány Péter Catholic University

Erasmus Policy Statement

"The University is an academic community that promotes the rigorous and critical protection of human dignity and heritage by researches, education and other activities offered to local national and international communities."

In accordance with the University's mission statement and Lifelong Learning Programme the international cooperation has been given more importance in our development strategy. Our institute is going to implement more additional specific activities – keeping those objectives and priorities that were declared by the formal Erasmus University Declaration in order to develop the mutual eligibility of training systems for lifelong learning strategy.

Our university is committed towards the internationalization process, and places great emphasis on the operation of mobility. Our institute, the sole university of the Hungarian Catholic higher education, is the only Hungarian institution of higher education being a member of an international network of research universities. We are engaged in IRUN (International Research Universities Network), an international network of ten European research universities, which aim is to build cooperation among the participating universities, student exchanges, research fellowships, joint researches, scientific conferences, the development of common bachelor and master courses. In 2013 we received the *priority rating of higher education institutions*.

Due to our extensive international relationship our students and tutors participating in mobility programmes currently can get close to 200 universities, and this number is growing. We have contracts with European and overseas countries: existing and gradually growing cooperation with American and Asian universities. Taiwan has already signed a contract, and negotiations with India and China are also in process.

Our collaborating partners are determined by the similar disciplines with similar institutional goals and researches, and the quality of education and services. In our partnerships we are intent on providing the participants of the exchange programmes and other joint activities with professional and personal benefit.

Our main objectives in international mobility:

1. Expansion of the student, tutor and staff mobility's rate and quality.
2. Improving the quality and increasing the number of multilateral inter-institutional co-operation.
3. Increasing the number of international projects: our aim is to strengthen and increase the number of international co-operation and to review continually their content and quality.
4. More and better cooperation between our institution and different labor-market groups.
5. Innovation development in education and training, and its application in the course of cooperation with our partner institutions.

Our international mobility aspirations are facilitated by applying ECTS, learning contracts, certificates, standardized usage of diploma-supplements, as well as the growing number of foreign language courses which currently includes approximately 300 courses at institutional level. Tender procedures are transparent: the methods are recorded in regulations; the decision-making process is carried out by the faculty committees of foreign affairs. Recognition of international learning experiences is our important principle. Its arrangement is helped by the credit transfer committees. Institutional evaluating rules help with controlling and evaluating the quality of participation in European Programmes. The university has a Quality Assurance Committee involving internationally recognized tutors. The development of student and tutor mobility is supported by conferences, workshops, joint research projects and study tours. The senior tutors are members of prestigious international scientific organizations. Tutors' activities in Erasmus Programme are recognized in their academic careers. Courses of foreign guest teachers are part of the curriculum. For international and exchange students the constantly renewing curricula and new information are available on the faculties' websites or in the international student's handbook.

The offices of international relations organize information days, orientation meetings and services for students involving the former scholarship holders. Our main duties include the foreign students' familiarization with our country's diverse culture and language.

We place great emphasis on collecting foreign professional training places and keeping in contact with them. Our career centres continuously assist and inform visitors about the opportunities. The variety of hosting institutions is from recognized European university search laboratories to companies with reputation to innovative firms.

Our university launches double degree and joint degree programmes both in arts and technical fields, but our main goal is to achieve a higher number of joint training programmes, which will further develop our international presence.

To take part in the Erasmus Programme has many benefits and positive effects, especially in the area of internationalization which is very important for us. Due to the quantitative and qualitative increase in the mobility those students can complete their studies in our institution that are more open to the world, communicate better, and who are tolerant of other cultures. Staying abroad contributes to strengthening their intercultural competences, as well. However, student can benefit from Erasmus not only during their study tours. Knowledge gained during the scholarship period, experience and knowledge are a great help to facilitate employment and career progress in the future.

Participation in the Programme is a very good opportunity also for our tutors and researchers as it encourages them to build more international cooperation. At the institutional level we can learn much from each other - from the up to par institutional practices to the latest methods - which learning process also contributes to our development. Our tutors can strengthen their knowledge, linguistic and cultural experiences not only by the experience acquired abroad, but also by the courses for foreign scholars coming to us and the preparation process.

As our endeavour is both a quantitative and qualitative improvement, the Erasmus mobility participation supports the development of our institution and – in a more distant perspective – the whole higher education system. By the continuous development of curricula, focusing on the international demand, our institution stands its ground in the international higher education environment contributing to the development of the international cross-border cooperation and the qualitative international higher education.

The objectives of this mobility are enhanced by its economic stimulus. The graduates from our university, who participated in the Erasmus Programme during their studies, can contribute to development of the European but mainly the Hungarian economy by their acquired competencies during their scholarships. The international presence, even if it is only

for a semester, can contribute to the training of professionals, who have deep and multidisciplinary theoretical knowledge and literacy, as well as modern and ethical strategic skills, and who are tend to be the future specialists of modern practical problems and the wide range of scientific researches.

Our institution is an intellectual workshop and also a community that far beyond its very special mission tends to train and educate professionals working on the rise of the nation and the mother country.

Our university represents the European culture, namely the basis of modern sciences, as well as the timeless values of the Christian message.

We believe that in Hungary and internationally it means not only the new roads, but anticipates many requirements that will massively occur in our accelerating world.

Budapest, 9th May 2013

