

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]

The University of Alicante (UA) aims at establishing strong links with its partner institutions and creating new partnerships, on the basis that a deeper mutual knowledge will allow a multiplicity of projects and activities within Programme.

In the first place, the UA aims at further improving mobility both in quality and quantity, including student mobility, student placements and teaching staff mobility.

Secondly, the UA gives priority to Multilateral Projects on the following:

- cooperation with enterprises and improving employability of graduates
- the transfer of knowledge, processes and innovating techniques
- the modernisation of curriculum as a response to the needs of society
- lifelong learning strategies and the UA as a "continuing education centre".

Priorities regarding Virtual campus projects are:

- to integrate ICT in our education and training
- to establish cooperative relations with other virtual campuses in Europe

Finally, our main interest in thematic networks lie in:

- access to higher education
- the link between education, research and innovation
- the link between higher education, vocational education and training, and work / employment.

In order to give visibility to the Erasmus activities and the Erasmus Charter, the UA will

- publish information on international relations at the first level of the institutional web-page
- promote international student associations
- develop specific tutor schemes for mobility and placement students
- organize annual university-wide events around the idea and project of Europe.

The UA internationalisation plan includes two different strategies:

- to keep an up-to-date information with all our partners through the email, regular on-site visits here and abroad by the Teaching and Staff Mobility and the celebration of specific seminars and workshops
- to participate in some international Education Conferences and networking events in order to reinforce partnerships and to explore new ones.

The UA carefully selects the new partners based on several criteria:

- demand analysis from our students and Staff
- existing partners in the same geographical area/region and diversification
- academic offer and general profile of potential partners, matching criteria
- cooperation and research opportunities on both sides

There is an Annual Review (AR) of our partnerships based on the numbers of students exchange, three-year evolution, joint projects, general outcomes, etc.

The UA's International Strategic Plan (ISP) has three general objectives:

- to reinforce global education as a key component of the institution's mission
- to provide leadership and support for international initiatives for all our members
- to provide access to global and international education to all students.

Each target group has its own specific objectives:

Outgoing students,

- a.To strengthen outgoing mobility for all our students (undergraduate, Masters, Doctorate)
- b.To enable students to benefit educationally, linguistically and culturally from the experience of studying abroad
- c.To contribute to the development of their curricula and experience as part of their global education

Incoming Students

- a.To fully integrate international students in all activities (academic, sports, cultural events, etc)
- b.To provide support and enhance the diversity of international students as a critical element of our institution
- c.To improve general experience of incoming students and the impact on the university and the surrounding area

Teaching and Administration Staff

- a. To strengthen Staff mobility and provide support
- b. To promote recognition of international work and criteria
- c. To create new research and cooperation projects
- d. To facilitate the development of dual, joint and other international programmes
- e. To improve general experience of incoming staff

Regarding the mobility for traineeships, the UA has been cooperating with a wide number of enterprises and organizations in different participating countries in the framework of LLP and if necessary will arrange new agreements in non-participating countries. The receiving organizations are chosen on the basis of the training activities the students will carry out and the commitment to ensure effective monitoring and mentoring.

The main objective of the mobility for internships at the UA is to increase the student employability with a cross-border real work experience that will help them to improve professional and idiomatic competencies and to develop personal and social skills during a stay in a different labour market and socio-cultural environment. The placement will be an additional value in the curricula of our students and their European citizenship, and will strengthen their entrepreneurship, their availability to develop their career in other countries, their capacity for adaptation and apprenticeship.

UA aims at advancing knowledge at the highest level for the benefit of society together with our partners as part of our international mission.

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]

Being one of the youngest universities in Spain, UA is also considered to be one of the most innovative and fastest-developing in the field of international cooperation. UA has a long history in cooperating with HEIs specifically in Third Countries, but also within EU. In the last 20 years UA developed a clear strategy to promote the participation of the different departments and institutes in the different EU programmes. One of the key points of this strategy has been to identify areas in higher education management and research which could be considered good practice. These identified areas have been basically internationalisation, quality, university-industry cooperation and research management. Teaching staff, students and university management staff are usually involved in activities with the idea of exporting know-how in these fields to Third Countries.

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]

The UA has adopted several measures for the academic excellence, sustainability and financial management of the university as part of the modernisation agenda (The Europe 2020 Strategy). For this purpose, the UA has created an Action Plan, which includes:

- the modernisation of curriculum as a response to the needs of modern society based on a smart, sustainable and inclusive system
- the adaptation of the curriculum considering key factors such as education and labour market demand, research, employment and entrepreneurship.
- enhancement of quality and diversity of human capital development in higher education and the benefits for society
- the transfer of knowledge, processes and innovating techniques to the rest of society, promoting an entrepreneurial and knowledge-based economy.
- close cooperation with enterprises and improving employability of all students, stimulating the creative and innovation skills in all three cycles and disciplines.

All these measures have been carefully planned in order to reach the requirements and attainment levels included in the "Agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher systems" by the European Commission.

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