



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

Erasmus activities included in the EPS

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): the strategy

The University for Foreigners of Perugia is proud of its consolidated internationalization dimension by virtue of the expertise experienced in hosting foreign students from all continents - so-called "internationalization at home". The goal is fostering the intercultural skills of the students, allowing them to communicate effectively across cultures, and in different cultural contexts. The University also aims to strengthen its competence in the Erasmus+ Program in international mobility for learning purposes with respect to academic recognition and the transfer of training credits, to the strengthening of the social inclusion of the participants, as well as to the qualitative strengthening of the cooperation processes with centers of excellence in training and research. For the University for Foreigners of Perugia, the fundamental objective of mobility is to create an international academic experience in a framework of multidimensional collaboration between universities. The success of mobility for study, training and research is based on a process of continuous qualitative improvement of the services offered before, during and after the mobility in the four cycles (short cycle, Bachelor, Master, doctoral studies). The University's Internationalization Strategy strongly reaffirms that international mobility is a training experience liable to affect both the personal growth of students / teachers / staff, enriching their soft skills and that of the institution itself, strengthening its ability to innovation in teaching and services, and to respond to the changing job requirements. The University for Foreigners of Perugia will further improve the impact of the opportunities of the Erasmus Program by increasing transnational academic cooperation and promoting international mobility, in the belief that this represents an invaluable added value for participants who have the opportunity to experience themselves in culturally different societies, facing distinct pedagogical approaches and strengthening their language skills.

The Erasmus Program will allow:

- to bring forth increasingly more prepared students at a global level, able of knowing new cultures and understanding the demand for professional skills to meet the needs of rapidly changing economies in each regional scenario;
- Internationalize its academic programs;
- encourage awareness-raising activities;
- achieve greater dissemination and impact of the University.

Taking advantage from its pluriennial experience and capitalizing from its success story in terms of 'internationalization at home' and international mobility, the University for Foreigners aims to establish an innovative model of flexible mobility. The rationale of this model is in the need to reframe the fundamental patterns of mobility building up a long-term resilience of education systems. The University aims at facing three main problems:

1. the uncertainties about international mobility and the need to mix "in person" and "online" educational activities;



2. the need to create a virtual environment, in which the student will experience the "going abroad";
3. the need to set up a system of certification for "virtual exchanges".

Both actions (KA1, KA2) will contribute to the University's Internationalization Policy, aimed at supporting the global dimensions of the educational offer with a strong focus on the international character of the degree programmes and Intercultural learning outcomes, in five main ways:

1. Increasing the range of international cooperation agreements within the Erasmus KA1 and KA2, focusing on North America, Latin America, Africa and South-East Asia;
2. Improving its educational offer;
3. Inviting at least a Visiting Professor every academic year;
4. Improving the overall mobility culture using different schemes, such as:
 - a) strengthening internationally mobile students' linguistic and intercultural skills by the establishment of a Lingua-Lab, an online language lab that will broaden knowledge about different cultures and prevent that language shortcomings curb student's desire of being part in the Erasmus programme;
 - b) increasing the awareness of the importance of taking part in the Erasmus programme, involving students to attending workshops on a global topic before the mobility.
5. Increasing the number of ECTS fostering the recognition of achieved learning outcomes acquired abroad, and encouraging students to spend time for study/traineeship/research abroad in the following ways:
 - a) introducing rewarding systems for the Erasmus Trainees;
 - b) fostering the blended mobilities and increasing the opportunities of virtual mobilities (either in Erasmus KA1, and KA2);
 - c) allowing eligible students to benefit of the "Erasmus-zero-eu-grant" status;
 - d) strengthening information and preparatory activities dedicated to Interns, introducing a virtual bulletin board, and issuing calls for "Digital Opportunity Traineeship".
6. Improving the services offered to internationally mobile students (including information desk, mentoring programme, language exchange, visa service) with the goal of enhancing the quality of the reception through a step-by-step approach, and:
 - a) adopting an intercultural peer mentoring scheme. Academic and social inclusion of incoming students will be facilitated by their peers who will support the newcomers in attending all the activities (didactic, administrative, cultural and leisure, etc.) promoted by the university, as well as to avoid them feeling outsiders in town. The University will recur to a Buddy system, introducing the position of Erasmus Student Tutors who, appointed after a public selection, will be first trained for the purpose and will cooperate with the local Erasmus Student Network, strengthening the already existent bilateral partnership;
 - b) when it comes to services for international students related to events, and excursions, the University will identify a contact person, outlining roles and indicating objectives to achieve.

When it comes to the implementation of all the Programme activities:

- The Rectors' Delegate to the Erasmus Programme will arrange monthly meetings to discuss the implementation of the different activities with the staff of the Erasmus office and of the International Relations Office.
- Regarding KA1 activities, every 3 months there will be regular updates with the Erasmus Tutors.
- Opportunities for Networking with the Observatory for the Internationalization of the University will be encouraged on a regular and rolling bases, so that all the participants of the meetings



should be encouraged to make the best of their creativity and ideas in order to implement the ESP' activities.

Regarding action KA2, in particular Partnership for Innovation, the University will implement two main actions:

- 1) The sharing of good practices on the use of virtual instruments as alternative tools to teaching activities on campus;
- 2) The drafting of a document on the reframe of international exchanges in the new context of the Global Convention on Higher Education. The University will be an active part not only in sharing good practices and in promoting discussion, but also in collaborating to the related activities. The newly established Observatory on Internationalization of the University will actively contribute in terms of coordination and preparatory materials.

The envisaged impact of the University for Foreigners' participation in the Erasmus programme will be multi-dimensional:

- 1) Improving the network of collaborations with positive repercussions on either the University's involvement in the international research community, and on attracting students worldwide.

As far as quantitative indicators:

- a) implementation of new international mobility agreements within the Erasmus+ Programme, in order to increase its geographic coverage from the current 29 Programme Countries (equal to 87% of the programme countries) expanding it up to 94% of the EU Countries;
- b) 25% Increase in the number of Joint/Double Degrees within 2027.
- 2) When it comes to students' mobility targets: The qualitative goal is having students that exude global focus, high language skills and a unique understanding of different cultures, bound together by their 'trademark' international dialogue.

As far as Quantitative indicators:

- a) increase in the number of ECTS acquired abroad, from a 5% to a 8% on the total amount of credits per academic year;
- b) consolidation, and a 15% expansion of the partnerships with Universities;
- c) strengthening of internationally mobile students tailored services, with a view to constant improvement, no later than 2023. Quality of Implementation: comprehensive monitoring of the participants' surveys (at the end of the mobility) about the outcomes of the mobility experiences through the development of an innovative questionnaire that will survey either the administrative and financial matters, as well as academic standards, social inclusion (accommodation, cultural exchange with students and citizens of the host country), eventual drop-out rates;
- d) improving Student's Digital Skills for facilitating students' participation in blended mobilities within 2025.
- 3) The University commits itself, as a priority of its modernization agenda, for simplification and dematerialisation of procedures, optimizing human resources both in academic and administrative tasks, within 2027.

The University for Foreigners is a highly internationalized educational institution. Diversity is a key component of its student's population. Since pandemics and other external shocks may endanger the multinational identity of the University, the capacity to set up a new strategy to guarantee the process of internationalization during the crisis is fundamental to guarantee the identity of our institution. Innovative approaches and ICT based methodologies will increase the levels of digital competence and the teaching in foreign language. In qualitative terms, the University will strengthen the processes of recognition and validation of competences, and motivation for language learning through innovative teaching methods or flexible international mobility.