

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]

UDC follows the general criteria for selecting new partners shown in the list below. Each one is linked to a general goal or objective of the university as a whole. Depending on the programme and on the needs of the school/faculty involved, some of these criteria could be more important than others. However, several of these features are always be present in any HEI we begin to collaborate with:

1. From an academic point of view, we look for:

- a. HEIs experienced in dealing with international students and committed to a quality internal internationalization process.
- b. HEIs well-known for their academic quality and excellence.
- c. HEIs with similar academic programmes to those existing at UDC.
- d. HEIs demanded by our schools, centers and research groups, for reasons related to their own specific international policy or interest of their research fields.

2. From a geo-economic and geo-cultural point of view, we intend to collaborate with:

- a. HEIs located in countries traditionally linked to the Galician/Spanish culture. Specially if there is a specific programme funding international cooperation between HEIs.
- b. HEIs located in countries offering employment opportunities to our students.
- c. HEIs located in countries with previous successful relationships with our university.
- d. HEIs located in countries demanded by the students.

As a consequence of its partner policy, defined by the aforementioned selection criteria, UDC has some geographical areas of special interest:

- The European Higher Education Area.
- Latin America.
- United States.
- Third Countries involved in EU internationalization programmes, not included in previous areas.
- China, Japan and Korea and other emergent economies not included in previous areas.

Mobility targets: Students have always been our internationalization policy main target. Particularly, student mobility (incoming/outgoing) is considered the axis of that internationalization policy. UDC intends to provide its students with as much international experience and consciousness as possible. One of the key factors to achieve that goal is to count on an important number of students coming from different countries and living in a single campus. Staff mobility is considered a very important tool to improve the UDC teaching quality, as well as for creating an internationalized environment at home.

On the basis of these assumptions, UDC has several specific goals for the following years, regarding international mobility:

- Consolidation of UDC undergraduate/master outgoing students' mobility for studies. UDC is promoting changes in the academic degree/master programmes, intended to contribute to achieve this objective: i.e. creating learning windows.
- Improve UDC figures of undergraduate/master incoming student mobility for studies. The measures planned to attain this objective are: setting up «teaching in English programmes» in as many undergraduate/master programmes as possible, promoting the internationalization of UDC master programmes, setting up a UDC «study abroad» programme, offering a free «orientation week», designing a brand new attractive special website in English for international UDC students.
- Facilitate cooperation between our research groups and other international research groups or institutions by promoting international contacts and mobility in the third cycle.
- Improve the figures of our (outgoing/incoming) student mobility for internships. Some of the measures planned to achieve this goal are: considering international internships as a standardized part of the undergraduate/master UDC study programmes, and promoting internships in our own university services.
- Improve our teaching mobility figures (specially incoming). Try to adjust this mobility to our regular undergraduate and graduate programmes, especially to our teaching in English programmes.
- Promote internationalization of our administrative staff. Staff internationalization is an important objective as it is a way to change the staff minds and working schemes to make them more committed and sensitive to the internationalization advantages. With that aim, UDC plans to organize an international staff week, involving as many UDC internal services as possible, and to create a stable scheme of internships in our university services.

International programmes: in 2013 our university is highly interested in developing new academic international programmes (especially master programmes), trying to internationally explode our academic and research strong points as a university. In order to support the efforts of the UDC community in this field, we are designing some actions and measures for funding activities related to the internationalization of UDC master programmes: i.e. a special budget for funding preparation meetings and activities, and specific measures for improving the working conditions of the coordinators responsible for international joint or double programmes.

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]

In 2013, UDC has some strategic alliances and specific programmes regarding international cooperation. All of them include either researching, teaching and/or training cooperation. Some actions within these broad programmes are intended to be funded by applying to the Erasmus calls for proposals:

1.- CRUSOE Network. All the public universities of the Galicia, Castilla-León and Northern Portugal are members of this organization. This universities' network has established some common guidelines to enhance the member institutions scientific strengths (corresponding to the RIS3 lines of each one of the partner Regions: health care, environmental protection, energy, ICT and language studies). The tight connections created among these universities are intended to foster common projects in order to get funds from the European Union.

2.- KIC Salud. This is a still-in-formation network project intended for applying to the KIC (Knowledge and Innovation Communities) programme of the EIT (European Institute for Innovation and Technology). The project's subject matter will be "Active Ageing and Healthy Lifestyle". The members of this network in progress are Galician, Dutch, Belgian, Danish, Italian and Scottish universities and Health foundations. This wide network is expected to be a strong basis for specific actions and activities that could be financed by some of the Erasmus programme calls for proposals.

3. Finally, under the UDC strategy, a new strategic partnership could be simply a result of previous or current successful LLP financed actions (Tempus and Erasmus Mundus). The level of success of these Erasmus-financed collaboration activities –most of the times built only as a result of personal links between the staff in charge of the projects- is always the key factor in order to go deeply into those relationships and to extend the cooperation to other fields.

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]

1. With regard to the first key issue of the «Modernization Agenda», we expect the new programme to be an important tool for supporting the internationalization of our research groups. In 2013, getting funds for researching is strongly connected to the international dimension of the research groups and clusters. Many specific programmes and actions within the Erasmus framework (i.e. Erasmus Mundus, Tempus) could be extraordinary tools to provide our research staff with the contacts and experience they need to make their number and quality grow up.

2. The achievement of the second and third priorities of the EU «Modernization Agenda» are the most directly connected to the general goals and actions promoted and funded within the programme. As both are also internal policy objectives of the UDC, the impact of the UDC participation in the Erasmus for all will be fundamental.

In 2013 about 70% of the UDC incoming and outgoing mobility is financed by the LLP-Erasmus. With the new projected Erasmus framework this figures will be higher. Therefore, keeping the Erasmus Charter is a key factor to

- Improve the academic quality of our staff. UDC is absolutely convinced that the more international mobility experiences we give to our staff, the more language skilled, international awareness and globally connected they get. Without the participation in the programme and the availability of its funds this objective will be severely affected.

- Increase the language, intercultural skills, and employability of our students and graduates. UDC is planning to design and enforce a considerable number of measures and actions aimed to support all our internationalization specific goals. Nevertheless, these measures (many of them encouraged by the EU) would have little impact without the possibility to apply for the Erasmus programme funding. Outgoing mobility, the presence of international students in our campuses, and some of the most important internationalization achievements and actions (i.e, the Erasmus Mundus Masters) depend highly on participating in the programme.

3. The participation in the programme will also have an extraordinary impact in the UDC policy regarding the fourth and fifth priority of the «Modernisation Agenda». Approximately 60% of the available funding for internationalization activities in the UDC in 2013 comes from the Erasmus-LLP budget.

An UDC policy objective is to develop strategic partnerships and alliances in those geographical areas more interesting for cultural, economic or academic reasons. This policy is intended to be an engine for modernization and internationalization of its less developed strategic partners, as well as for building the academic knowledge alliances needed to foster our own regional development. The Erasmus programme includes the necessary actions to create, develop and go deeply into these strategic partnerships. (i.e. Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, IPs, etc.).