

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE.

*What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?
(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).*

The University of Wrocław is one of the leading Polish public universities. It is a university with over 300 years of tradition, and its international impact is strongly rooted in the city, region and country.

With around 25,000 students and 2,000 academic staff, it is one of the best research universities in Poland. It has world-class research teams and facilities in the fields of science and humanities: chemistry, mathematics, computer science, physics, astronomy, natural sciences, law, administration, economics, social sciences, historical and pedagogical sciences, and philology.

The lecture language at the University of Wrocław is Polish, but the University also has a wide range of full-time studies in English at all three levels of education (Bachelor - 8 programmes, Master - 16 programmes and PhD - 3 programmes)

Based on the strategy recently adopted by the Senate of the University of Wrocław, the mission of our University is seeking the truth, transferring knowledge and nurturing culture; building social and intellectual capital by shaping people with open minds, prepared to act on a local and a global scale, finding themselves in a changing world, able to draw on diversity, yet aware of the importance of national and regional identity.

The best capital and the highest value of the University of Wrocław is the community of its students and employees, which maintains a permanent relationship with graduates.

The University of Wrocław's strategy defines the main foundations of the University of Wrocław, which are values centred around four assumptions:

- the highest quality (world-class research, high potential of the academic staff, state-of-the-art technologies, ability to define goals and long-term educational strategy, self-improvement of management procedures, internal and external evaluation)
- effectiveness and diversity (interdisciplinarity, mobility of students and researchers, individualization of educational and scientific paths, all levels of education, lifelong learning, a modern doctoral school, effective education and competences useful on the labour market)
- openness and readiness for challenges (freedom of science and scholars, cooperation and dialogue with the wider world, tolerance, kindness, dignity, a meeting place for different views and cultures, reaction to changes, following universal development trends)
- synergies (knowledge and innovation, close relationship between teaching and research, educating elites and shaping education quality standards, modern infrastructure and open knowledge resources, expert role and socio-cultural impact)

At the beginning of the 2019/2020 academic year, the University of Wrocław gained the title of the Research University and joined the honourable group of the 10 best universities in the country, which were selected in a competition conducted by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education as part of the "Excellence Initiative - Research University" programme - which had to select a group of universities specializing in top-quality research.

The result of participation in the above project was the establishment by the University of Wrocław of six interdisciplinary so-called Priority Research Areas (POB), which are: 1) New materials; 2) Man, city and environment; 3) Big data and artificial intelligence, 4) Multiculturalism; 5) Health - from gene analysis to drug design; 6) Man between nature and culture. The above research areas (POB) determine the directions of scientific and didactic development of our University in the nearest years.

The University of Wrocław has been a beneficiary of the Erasmus programme from the beginning of its presence in Poland since the academic year 1998/1999. Since then, the programme has deeply rooted in the structures of the university, thousands of its students and employees have benefited from its extensive offer, primarily as mobility participants. To date, the University of Wrocław has signed about 1,200 inter-institutional Erasmus agreements with almost 500 foreign universities in Programme Countries and Partner Countries.

It should be underlined, that the University of Wrocław is very popular among foreign students; from year to year the number of students coming for Erasmus exchange to the University of Wrocław is definitely increasing. At present, the number of outgoing and incoming Erasmus students remains at a similar level and each amounts to about 500 mobilities per year. Achieving this high number was only possible thanks to all the initiatives undertaken by the University of internationalisation at home.

The mobility programme is also intensively used by university employees, for several years the University of Wrocław has achieved the first place in the national rankings of the number of employees using the Erasmus programme (STA and STT). Gaining professional experience resulting from participation in the programme builds the human potential of the University.

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

Participation in the new Erasmus 2021-2027 program is an indispensable tool to implement our internationalization strategy. In the new Erasmus+ 2021-2027, we are very motivated to continue the activities carried out with such success in the previous phase of the 2014-2020 programme.

The presence of the Erasmus programme at the University of Wrocław definitely increases the internationalization of our university and the implementation of its basic priority, which is undoubtedly strengthening our position in the construction of the European Education Area.

Participation in the Erasmus programme fits perfectly into the institutional strategy of internationalization and modernization of the University of Wrocław, which, among its main strategic goals, lists, among others:

1. Development of international research activities (increase of mobility and internationalization of research staff, development of internationalization of research)
2. Modern and effective education (increase in student mobility, increase and internationalization of teaching staff, implementation of innovative teaching technologies, promoting the educational offers for international students, increasing the level of internationalization of recruitment, creating and promoting lifelong learning offers, using aspects of education multiculturalism and ecological issues, teaching and strengthening interpersonal attitudes of tolerance, kindness and respecting the dignity of other people)
3. Development of cooperation in the socio-economic environment (development of cooperation with international universities, promoting and supporting the participation of students and graduates in professional internships in foreign institutions, development of cooperation with business entities as well as cultural, education and sport institutions as well as non-governmental organizations, developing cooperation with graduates)
4. Development of modern system management (raising staff competences through participation in training for administrative staff, increasing the efficiency of financial and project management, development of IT management systems, introducing electronic documentation management (including Erasmus without paper), improving electronic forms of communication between students and the University, developing university infrastructure)

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

The University of Wrocław is planning to take full advantage of the offer presented by the Erasmus programme in the period 2021-2027. We plan that to the greatest extent our participation will include the programme of Action 1 - regarding student and staff mobility. Nevertheless, we also aspire to apply for funding for projects covered by Action 2 and Action 3, which will undoubtedly contribute to the achievement of strategic goals related to the internationalization of our University. We believe that the in new Erasmus 2021-2027 period, even more members of our academic community will benefit from the programme, while maintaining sustainability aspects and respecting the environment.

We have many years of experience in coordinating the Erasmus programme and have developed schemes to ensure good support services at the University of Wrocław. The central coordinating unit of the programme is the International Office, which closely cooperates with other UWr administration units, in particular with the Student Affairs Department, the Teaching Department, the Promotion Office, as well as with faculties and central university units responsible for IT services and student accommodation office. The International Office has been using its own online system for several years to support the applications of outgoing and incoming students and staff, which already allows digital circulation of documents required by the programme, without the need to print them.

In order to ensure the high quality of the project implementation, at all 10 Faculties of the University of Wrocław, the role of Erasmus Faculty Coordinators will be performed by academic teachers appointed for this task. They will act on behalf of the Deans responsible for internationalization at their Faculties. Their main task will be to promote the Erasmus programme in their units, as well as the annual publishing of the Erasmus recruitment and recognition rules for studies and placements and the organization of the recruitment process of candidates, and at a later stage to help students in the preparation of their learning agreements, its approval and recognition of their achievements abroad after returning to the home university.

The University of Wrocław is well prepared to accept a large number of students coming for Erasmus exchange. We offer studies in English at all levels of education. We offer an intensive Polish language course to all international students before each semester, which can later be continued during the semester course. In addition, international students can take advantage of the "buddy" programme and a wide range of cultural and integration events offered by the student union, as well as the organizations UniWings and ESN. Our university can offer accommodation in student dormitories to all international students.

The university's plans also include mobilities for academic teachers to conduct classes at partner universities and as well training mobilities for all the university staff members. Recruitment of employees for trips will take place on the basis of centrally adopted recruitment rules, approved by the Vice-Rector for international cooperation and international projects.

The University of Wrocław plans to continue cooperation with the majority of existing partner universities, as well as to establish new relations with new universities located in Programme Countries and Partner Countries. The initiating of interinstitutional agreements will primarily be the responsibility of the Faculties, which while choosing partner universities will be guided not only by coherence with their internationalization policy, but also by ensuring the diversity for candidates interested in mobility, and taking into account the development of Priority Research Areas (POB).

The new Erasmus 2021-2027 programme also allows us to apply for participation in Action 2 and Action 3 projects, of which we are definitely going to take advantage, depending on the type and theme of the project, as its coordinator or partner. The participation of our staff in the international thematic networks and their contacts resulting from scientific cooperation as well as their Erasmus teaching visits, often lead to the new joint initiatives. We have experience in running this type of projects (e.g. joint master degree, strategic partnerships, capacity building) both in terms of qualified scientific and administrative staff as well as university facilities. The status of the University of Wrocław as a Research University will be a driving force of activities aimed at undertaking new project initiatives under the Erasmus + 2021-2027 programme.

The University of Wrocław is currently applying for participation in the InclusEU European University Alliance, which is a prototype of the Erasmus Action 2 project - European Universities. Together with 7 European universities: University of Lille (France), University of Babeş-Bolyai (Romania), University of Minho (Portugal), University of Malmö (Sweden), University of Mykolas Romeris (Lithuania), University of Roma Tre (Italy), we want to create an alliance whose members support the values and principles common to universities in Europe, and also adhere to a philosophy based on four pillars: inclusion, civic attitudes, awareness of quality and openness. We see the participation of our University in the above project as an opportunity to conduct scientific research at the highest level and to educate students in a spirit of openness, diversity and tolerance.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

The presence of the Erasmus programme at the University of Wrocław has had a multidimensional impact not only on the University as an institution, but also on individual members of the academic community, its students and staff.

Increasing the scientific potential of the university staff or the quality of the university's administrative service are the obvious effects that we expect using the benefits of the programme.

Participation in the Erasmus programme means an increase in the internationalization of the university at every level, in every unit. Erasmus projects positively motivate the university to raise teaching standards and enrich the didactic offer in foreign languages, which raises its attractiveness in the eyes of future students in Poland, in Europe and worldwide. The opportunity to interact with the academic community and representatives of other countries and cultures will not only constantly raise awareness of the need to know foreign languages, but also motivate the constant improvement of language skills and professional qualifications.

Being in an international diverse environment is also becoming aware of the global problems that contemporary societies face. Matters of environmental protection and the need to promote behaviour friendly to it, i.e. moving towards sustainable development, is another positive impact that we expect from the Erasmus programme at our University.

One of the most valuable effects that many years of participation in the Erasmus programme has given us is building a network of international partners, which, in the future, the University of Wrocław will use to create further joint projects.

The main goals of the projects that we want to achieve by participating in Erasmus+ programme are:

- enabling UWU students to study part of their studies at a partner university abroad
- offering UWr students the opportunity to complete internships in any institution or enterprise of their choice in one of the countries participating in the programme
- enabling students and UWr staff to draw on the experience of studying / working in an international academic environment by admitting a large number of students and staff from partner universities to UWr
- exchange of academic staff, on one hand increasing the attractiveness of the teaching offer by including international lecturers in the schedule, and on the other hand by enabling our academic staff to gain international experience in teaching
- enabling training for the academic staff, especially aimed at improving their teaching qualifications

- offering international training to UWr administrative, and other non-academic staff
- increasing languages skills among both university students and staff who participate in mobility and also of those who do not go abroad, by offering them regular contact with mobility participants from other countries, who are staying at our University.

The greatest impact we expect from the Erasmus programme on mobility participants, both students and staff, are:

- improving adaptation skills
- increase of language competence
- greater ability to learn independently and overcome difficulties
- increased self-esteem and greater self-confidence
- increasing the ability to cooperate with people from other cultures
- broadening horizons and openness to new challenges
- increasing tolerance for people with different cultures, outlooks and religions
- increase of professional experience in their field
- strengthening cooperation with a foreign universities/institutions
- earning additional points in the opinion of employees for teaching at a foreign university
- increasing competitiveness on the labour market in the future
- greater awareness of environmental problems
- increasing public awareness and commitment to citizenship

In the new phase of the Erasmus 2021-2027 programme, the University of Wroclaw sets itself the task of successively increasing the exchange of students and staff from year to year. Our goal is to achieve by at the latest in the last year of the programme 2027, an annual level of Erasmus mobilities of all the types:

- Student mobility for studies (including blended mobility) – 1200 students;
- Student mobility for internships – 600 students and graduates;
- Mobility of employees for the purpose of teaching – 600 academic teachers;
- Employee mobility for training purposes – 400 staff members.

Achieving the above effects from the participation in the Erasmus+ programme is fully in line with the strategy of the University of Wroclaw adopted by the University Senate for the years 2021-2030, which at the same time guarantees their full implementation.