

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Internationalizing the university is signaling the need for transformational changes in the curriculum, the flow of students across borders, the scope and breadth of international collaborations in research, and the engagement of the university with new audiences. In both their private and public lives, the students of today will find that the outside world cannot be ignored. The careers of the next generation will be global in scope, regardless of the field of study. Students need to be prepared for interaction around the globe in the personal challenges they confront, as well as the public challenges they will face. According to the strategic planning of the University of Cyprus, it has the following priorities with regards to internationalization:

First priority is the recruitment of international students which is closely related to the strategic development plan of the University for the increase of students to 10,000 by the year 2020, the creation of international programmes and the improvement of student culture. This will enhance multiculturalism and the international credibility of the University. It will also promote brain-gain, as well as the flow of income. Second priority is the creation of a separate International Students' Admissions Office. Third priority is the encouragement of all students to study abroad within the framework of the ERASMUS for All Programme (at least one semester during their studies). Fourth priority is the development and promotion of postgraduate study programmes in foreign languages and the development of Joint Degrees with institutions abroad. Fifth priority is the enhancement of the University's participation in international Networks and Associations. Sixth priority is the positioning of the University as a main player in the EU and International Education Area. A recent development was the creation of the European Union Universities of Small States (EU²S²) Association for the promotion of an active role of small States Universities in the knowledge society. The 22 participating universities are from Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Slovenia. In addition, the University is taking a leadership role with the Presidency of important networks such as UNICA and EAEC.

a) The partners' selection is based on initiatives and evaluation of the different academic Departments. Another way of finding partners is through the university's participation in networks and organizations inside and outside the EU.

b) The University has bilateral agreements of cooperation with 51 universities and organizations in countries such as Albania, Australia, Armenia, Canada, Georgia, Guyana, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Palestine, Russia, Ukraine and USA. It has non Erasmus bilateral agreements of cooperation with 51 universities and organizations in European countries such as Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom. The University has 556 Erasmus agreements with 230 universities in the 33 countries participating in the Programme.

c) The student mobility for studies is related to the teaching languages offered by the host universities and the equivalency of the programmes in terms of learning outcomes and number of ECTS for the corresponding modules in the home and host universities. The student mobility for training is based on the learning outcomes that will be achieved by the student at the end of the training period and the good communication between the student, the home university and host organization.

In the case of teaching staff, the academics on teaching assignments abroad, have the opportunity to develop further cooperation in research and projects with academics of the host university. In the case of staff mobility the mobile participants have the opportunity to collect good practices from similar type of professional activity and develop new knowledge and ideas from job shadowing/training in universities or enterprises abroad. The mobility of students is more flexible in the 1st cycle due to the large selection of modules. The teaching mobility is usually addressed to the 2nd and 3rd cycles, providing specific expertise knowledge sessions to postgraduate students.

The University of Cyprus promotes the development of and cooperation in joint degrees. Joint Degrees place students in (learning) situations which require real flexibility, more openness to diversity, strengthened quality assurance, opportunity to improve language skills, and more creative approaches to learning than in traditional environments. A Joint Degree that is initiated by a Department at the University of Cyprus and a department at a partner University must be approved by the University Senate. Sometimes such degrees are initiated through Erasmus IP Programmes in which the University of Cyprus is actively involved.