

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]

ULE aspires to becoming internationally significant, contributing to global education and improving the competitiveness of Spain in a global context. This can be done by internationalizing our curriculum and increasing international recruitment to our campuses. We recruit international and EU students and engage in transnational education through academic collaboration with selected overseas institutions. ULE is constantly developing its support systems, resources, processes and regulatory frameworks to support a significantly enhanced level of international activity.

ULE is an active partner at the following international networks and Associations: Santander Group, Compostela Group, Nice Network, European University Association, European Association for International Education, the Forum on Education Exchange, NAFSA and the Asociación de Programas Universitarios Norteamericanos en España, APUNE. These organizations gather partners from all parts of the world and they are the main source for partners when envisaging international projects or transnational schemes. A secondary source is the partners having shown reliability through the collaboration in prior international projects and whose representatives and managers have honored their duties in the past. ULE has a great interest in cooperation with UE neighboring countries, Latin-America for cultural and linguistic resemblances and the Anglo-Saxon academic world due to their preeminence in the higher quality rankings. Our ongoing collaboration scheme with China has led to the establishment of a Confucius Institute in the city with academic guidance from ULE staff.

Regarding mobility activities, ULE has assumed among its target objectives the accomplishment of the Leuven Communiqué of the 46 countries of the Bologna Process regarding the mobility strategy, that by 2020 at least 20% of the European graduates should have a period of study or training abroad. We therefore envisage an increase in outgoing student mobility at all levels of education, including the fostering of the European Doctorate. ULE is at present engaging an average of 11% of its students in mobility actions. This figure is unfortunately not equally distributed among the different types and levels of studies, so we target studies of Nursing, Engineering or Education to increase their participation. Mobility at Master level has been extremely difficult since the Bologna process due to the short duration of these degrees in Spain (60 ECTS in one academic year). However some programs are changing to 90 credits and therefore extending their duration one full semester. This change will enable new mobility agreements at this level. Doctorate studies under the new Bologna scope have diminished their mobility statistics, although new agreements are foreseen that will enable shorter stays mainly for training purposes. A core objective is to fully implement the ECTS grading tables: The aim is to work out a comprehensible, transparent and easy to use methodology for grade conversion according to the ECTS system leading to an improved implementation of the ECTS grading tables proposed in the Users' guide recommended by the European Commission.

Regarding academic staff, we are targeting the academics that are interested in teaching through English by promoting their mobility for teaching and training abroad. Another emphasis will be on the international training of recently incorporated staff. Administrative staff will be offered to visit centers of excellence, good practices or specific international weeks.

ULE promotes the implementation of joint diplomas through a specific unit at Vice-Presidency level. At present we offer a joint European Master of Business Studies involving four countries and two double diplomas with University Xiangtan, China in Business and in Mechanical Engineering. This list is expected to enlarge as a consequence of the promotion of courses taught through English which will facilitate the signature of such joint ventures with new partners. We also seek on setting up this type of actions with countries using languages of Latin origin, an aspect that will enlarge the scope of possible nationalities for recruitment.

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]

Despite being a small university, the ULE has been very active in international research and innovation projects. Our strategy has been and continues to be for the next years to focus in two key activity areas: the first one is the improvement of the quality and the relevance of higher education. This action area has been implemented through the lead of two Erasmus Multilateral Projects: INTENT promoting virtual intercultural exchange between university classrooms in Europe and beyond and EGRACONS, aiming at developing a user-friendly web-based tool for grade conversion that will be made available to all European HEIs on a voluntary basis enabling a transparent interpretation of students' accomplishments. The second is centered in the promotion of European co-operation and innovation in specific subject areas, while enhancing the quality of teaching and internationalizing specific academic disciplines, implemented through the lead of one Erasmus Academic Network 2009/2012 named COBEREN and centered in Consumer Behavior and the participation in a second one called ISLE on innovation in the teaching of Sustainable development in Life sciences in Europe. All of these actions have included a focus on languages, the promotion of ICT for learning new and more effective ways of operating, supporting pedagogical and organizational innovation.

We have also been involved at partner level in Erasmus Mundus projects with South America (Chile) and with the north of Africa, and we plan on continuing and enlarging our efforts on this type of projects.

We plan on starting Multilateral networks that strengthen the relationships between the different 'actors' involved in vocational training, a new and unexplored field of action focusing on university graduates.

Finally we intend to foster Internationalization at Home projects and promote international weeks in cooperation with our experienced partners.

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]

Our expressed policy of active international student recruitment and the increased international curriculum of our academic offer is expected to open new opportunities for mobility and therefore is likely to become more attractive to local students and subsequently increase the number of higher education graduates.

The new organization of studies under Bologna and ECTS has meant that every single course offered at ULE is based on basic and specific competences to be acquired by the students. These competences are to be ameliorated by the effect of the ongoing international cooperation, not only through the mobility schemes but also by the participation of our staff in international events, innovation or joint cooperation projects. The continuous in-house training plan is gradually training our staff in new technologies and teaching methodologies to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations;

The fact that we are continuously seeking new partnerships, new cooperation agreements and participation in joint international projects involving areas that have so far not been so active in the international arena is expected to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance;

Our active participation in the "Erasmus for All" program will enable new relationships and bounds among social actors, thus strengthening the "knowledge triangle" linking education, research and business. ULE will strive to increase the level of cooperation between actors at the said three communities, further linking our Research Result transfer offices, the research institutes and any other service providing instance in university with the outer economic and social world. Moreover, the inter-institutional links will foster and facilitate the opportunities for dissemination of the research and innovation results through joint publications and common spread actions of the kind.

Finally we expect that our active cooperation with other higher education institutions will help us discover and identify examples of good practice in the areas of effective governance including funding mechanisms in support of excellence.

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

Endorsement of the application

I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,

certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;

agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;

agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission

Place: leon

Name: Jose Angel Hermida Alonso Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 14/05/2013

I have read and accept the Privacy statement

Original signature of the legal representative of the institution (as identified in section A.2 above)



Original stamp or seal of the institution

