

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) 2021-2027

Participation in the Erasmus Programme will support the university's priority activities aimed at further internationalisation and modernisation. The university's strategy in the area of internationalisation and modernisation results from the mission of the university, assumes its openness to international cooperation and is the basis for the Programme implementation plan and other international initiatives and activities, including:

- improving the quality of education: adjusting study programmes of all fields of education to the requirements arising from the needs of the labour market; constant monitoring and analysing the quality of education; developing the implemented distance learning (e-learning) and extramural education offer in all fields of study, making the education offer more attractive and expanding the list of courses in English to attract international students and increase learning mobility, developing the student placement system to encourage students to gain professional skills during their studies and promoting the mobility for traineeships, adjusting the education offer to people of different ages- compensatory courses, consulting programmes with local and foreign practitioners and business representatives, strengthening partnerships with enterprises and employers, compensatory courses for foreigners,
- improving study conditions and supporting student participation in the life of the university:

the university develops a modern didactic base in order to create the best conditions for education (a new campus building is created for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences) to present its education offer to home and foreign students in an attractive way and with the highest standards; safe and modern campus, computerised library with foreign-language publications adapted to the disabled, own TV studio; supporting student initiatives and activities, integration of home and foreign students and cooperation with student government, improving the administrative service for students, digitalisation, maintaining financial support system for students, combating any forms of exclusion and further development of non-discrimination policies, providing study conditions for the disabled, promoting the best students (e.g. publications of the best diploma theses - series "*Prace Młodych*", internships), strengthening ties with graduates, mobility ambassadors, stimulating students' social activity and sensitivity,

- strengthening university's position in the field of scientific research and development of publishing activities: expanding the scope of research, seeking external sources of financing, internationalisation and dissemination of research, promoting publications of university staff, gradual extension of the scope of foreign language publications,
- supporting staff development: promoting mobility for teaching, training; conferences, publications, international scholarships, engagement in international projects and scientific activities as an integral part of professional development,

- supporting the University's activities: organisation of conferences with participation of practitioners, experts and representatives of foreign partner institutions, student government,
- development of the university management system and further computerisation of the university: investing in infrastructure supporting the didactic process (e-learning, multimedia, workshops, laboratories), supporting entrepreneurship - Incubator of Entrepreneurship, introduction of an electronic system for managing the didactic process, course catalogue with ECTS regularly updated on the website, development of an integrated IT system; electronic document circulation, evaluation, digitalisation of the administrative process around managing the mobility; Wi-Fi throughout the campus,

- further development of international cooperation: increasing the number of inter-institutional agreements to develop the staff and student mobility of all levels and fields of study, promotion of mobility, developing cooperation with foreign partners and starting new international partnerships, participation in international projects and joint scientific research, developing joint study programmes, increasing the scope of multilateral cooperation; publications in foreign languages, constant expansion of the study offer in English – courses in English and new fields of study in English, lectures and visits of academic staff from partner universities, internationalisation of staff, contribution to the development of the European Educational Area through the use of instruments created by the European Commission,
- recognisable image of the university (constant contact with the media, local environment, monitoring the social image, strengthening the role of university locally and internationally).

The university's aim is to strengthen international cooperation to promote and carry out the mobility of higher education students and staff (including blended mobility and to people with fewer opportunities) and participate in international projects. Based on the experience, the university is going to use the implemented fair and transparent procedures throughout all stages of mobility and administrative support that offer the necessary back-up to ensure high quality in academic mobility and programme promotion, to implement and carry out the project activities and to disseminate project results at both institutional and faculty levels. Selection procedures are fair, transparent and documented (recruitment committee appointed by the rector, a documented and accessible appeal procedure, study regulations, documented procedures on implementation of mobility activities, distribution of funds and full recognition of mobility). There are administrative units and designated persons at university supporting the implementation of university's policy concerning international cooperation. The International Office, with an institutional coordinator, is engaged in a number of activities, including: promotion of mobility, central management of the selection procedures and mobility, registration of bilateral agreements, administrative support before, during, after the mobility for incoming/ outgoing mobility participants (documents, visas, accommodation, insurance), organization of orientation weeks prior to each semester, 'the buddy system' for incoming students, information and integration meetings including International Days and with the participation of 'the mobility ambassadors'. Faculty coordinators (staff members appointed by the dean in each faculty) are responsible for the academic side of mobility: they provide assistance and academic counselling to outgoing/ incoming students in the preparation of

learning agreements, sign them prior to the mobility; they are responsible for the recognition procedures of learning outcomes of the successfully completed study period abroad, traineeships; they support the incoming/ outgoing students and staff at faculty level. Quality management of mobility is supported by the cooperation and communication with other university administrative units (including IT unit, faculty dean's offices, accounting department, promotion department, university's TV studio and the students' government). The ECTS is implemented in all fields of study and the course catalogue in place is available on the university's website, regularly updated by faculties as the information on the grading system with grade distribution tables. The mobility will be carried out on the basis of mobility agreements agreed by a mobility participant, the sending and receiving institutions prior to the mobility. The mobility for studying and teaching should be carried out within prior inter-institutional agreements (evaluated in a respective faculty and signed by the rector). University Language Centre organizes language courses for mobility participants (intensive English courses, Polish for foreigners). Transcripts of Records are issued to inbound students after the end of their mobility period on the basis of the confirmed Learning Agreement and in a timely manner agreed with foreign partners. The university has developed a clear and documented path of student mobility recognition. Staff mobility and participation in international activities contribute to the professional recognition of staff and is included in annual evaluation reports. The university has a modern teaching base with a computerised library, sports centre as well as the infrastructure to welcome students and staff with disabilities.

As an integrated part of the university's internationalisation strategy, participation in international cooperation projects will contribute to strengthening the university's international profile. The university has implemented a number of EU funded projects and aims at increasing faculty staff involvement in international projects (so far participation in 'BISHENA Bridging Innovations, Health and Societies' within KA2'). The university intends to expand its participation in international activities and projects in education and research. Therefore, the university encourages its academic environment to engage in projects with foreign partners, including projects financed from international funds in view of developing joint degree programmes, participation in multilateral projects, centralized and decentralized projects and increasing university's activity in coordinating international research projects and it supports the initiatives of faculties and staff (sharing rooms, co-financing initiatives, providing the administrative back-up, creating opportunities to verify and improve knowledge and skills on an international forum). Information on ongoing projects and the results of such initiatives are shared and disseminated, also on the university's website. All such activities have a direct impact on the university's internationalisation strategy: strengthening partnerships with institutions from EU and non-EU countries and developing the cooperation between universities, research centres and industry/business at international levels, establishing new partnerships and inter-institutional agreements, scientific contacts; professional development of the academic staff (employees with international experience and language competences); increasing mobility and the number of international students; improving the quality of education and developing study offer in foreign languages; developing the university's modern teaching base; strengthening the research and increasing the number of international publications; recognisable position of university in the international environment as an active member of the European Education Area.

Participation in the Programme will contribute to the further dynamic development of the university. Since its foundation in 2000, the University has been consistently striving for internationalisation and strengthening of the quality of education in order to function effectively in the European Educational Area and face the challenges of the modern world in the era of globalisation. The most important targets and impact of the activities to be carried out within the Programme (2021-2027) include:

- strengthened international cooperation (currently 130 cooperation agreements with universities from 35 different countries, mainly from Europe, but also from Asia, Africa, America): developed cooperation with long-term foreign partners; enhanced bonds with institutions from neighbouring countries due to cultural, historical and political ties; increased number of international partnerships and inter-institutional agreements with institutions from EU countries (also with new countries, such as: Denmark, Belgium, Ireland, Island, Norway) and non-EU countries with a similar educational profile and study programmes in view of carrying out joint ventures on different levels, including the mobility of students and staff; increased involvement of university faculties members in activities under KA2, developing common study programmes in English, joint degree programmes; expanded involvement in scientific research in an international environment, joint publications; international scientific conferences, meetings and events promoting equality of cultures, nations, respect for difference and diversity (such as the International Days);
- increased number of international students (currently more than 1,900 foreigners from 30 different countries study at university): in the era of a demographic decline institutions from Europe, but also from Asia, America, or Africa become strategic cooperation partners, which allows the university to open to students from EU and non-EU countries who wish to undertake their studies at university; integration of local and international students and combating any forms of exclusion;
- achieved sustainable increase of student mobility for studies (including blended mobility) at all levels and in most fields of study within 7 faculties, and especially in the fields with lower mobility rates, or recently launched at university (e.g. Medicine); development of a student placement system and a higher number of the participants of the mobility for traineeship within most faculties; implementation of automatic recognition of successfully completed courses/ period of study/ traineeship as agreed in the Learning Agreement prior to the mobility and confirmed in the Transcript of Records/ certificate of traineeship;
- increased employability and competitiveness of university's students and graduates in the global labour market (higher number of graduates with international experience and the increased social, intercultural competences and language skills);

- enhanced quality of education and internationalisation of studies: extended offer of language courses provided by the university Language Centre, including Polish for foreigners and applicants; increased number of courses, modules and programmes of study in English (to date: Medicine, Film and TV Production Management, International Business, International Tourism, International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy, Management); joint education projects with foreign partners (joint courses/ modules/ curricula, if possible joint/ double degree programmes); visits of guest professors; increased digitalisation of teaching and learning, introduction of innovative teaching methods and modern solutions as a result of the exchange of good practices with international partners and the enhanced international experience and increased language competences of the university's staff,

- staff development: achieved sustainable increase of staff mobility for teaching and training as a result of the developed number of international contacts and staff participation in joint projects (staff with the increased professional competences, enhanced social, intercultural, language skills and a net of international contacts); mobility recognition in the professional development policy and the implemented annual staff assessment reports,

- strengthened quality of mobility management from preparation through to recognition: digital mobility management implemented step-by-step and in line with the set indicative timeline, monitoring visits at foreign partner universities and enterprises to support the highest level of quality of the mobility for studies and traineeships.