

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (OVERALL STRATEGY)

UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISCO DE VITORIA (MADRID, SPAIN)

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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)

UFV's international strategy has been re-defined in a new International Strategic Plan (2013-18). Student exchange activities are directly addressed through key objectives of the strategy: attracting talented students to UFV, preparing graduates for the global job market, and ensuring the successful integration of foreign students, lecturers and employees.

UFV has actively promoted student mobility since its foundation back in 1993. The most important element of student mobility has been Erasmus student exchange. In 2012 above 380 students (incoming and outgoing) participated in an exchange programme. While exchanges with non-European institutions are increasing, Erasmus will remain the main student exchange programme with European partners. The goal is to give all interested students the possibility to gain high-quality international experience through a period of study or work abroad.

UFV's new International Strategic Plan (2013-18) aimed at boosting the internationalization process. In today's age of global knowledge and technology, an interconnected network and global awareness are increasingly viewed as major and sought-after assets. With the current labour market requiring graduates to have international, foreign language and intercultural skills to be able to interact in a global setting, institutions are placing more importance on internationalization. At UFV this will be achieved by implementing a functioning internationalization strategy combined with proper monitoring and quality control. The Spanish university graduates are currently facing severe employment issues with an unemployment rate of 50%+ and growing. At the same time, the students are interested in international labour markets, and need to strengthen the language and special learning skills to successfully apply for positions. The opportunity to take part in teacher exchanges is important for the personal development of UFV staff. The University also welcomes visiting academic staff and the contribution they make to its teaching programmes and curriculum development.

How UFV chooses international partners.

Existing agreements with partner Institutions will be consolidated and extended. New agreements will be sought with partners and other Institutions. The main criteria to choose international partners are:

- ✓ Common areas of interest and sharing of institutional values
- ✓ Excellence centers in relevant teaching and research fields
- ✓ Partners that are members of already existing networks
- ✓ Institutions with an strategic focus on internationalization

Geographical areas of priority.

Emphasis on past collaboration has been on European countries as well as on United States and Latin America. A strong European emphasis prevails, with the main strategic focus of establishing alliances with already existing networks and excellence centers. The University will

focus on collaborations with higher education institutions in developing Latin American countries.

Objectives and target groups of mobility activities.

UFV's objective is to increase the mobility of teachers as well as the mobility of students in all cycles. Teaching staff mobility, it is expected to double during the Programme period.

UFV has a number of well-established Erasmus student and teacher mobility programmes. These have brought benefit to participating students, teachers and to their peers who have gained from the different perspectives brought to their subject. In order to encourage the development of new links and the internationalization of its programmes, the University intends to support the extension of Erasmus exchanges to new subject areas.

All students selected to take part in exchange programmes will be chosen on the basis of merit and their potential to benefit from the experience. Periods of study undertaken by its students under the Erasmus framework receive full academic recognition.

All students work under the supervision of a tutor, and are required to keep in contact with them while on exchange. The reports of outgoing students on their time abroad are monitored to enable any problems to be identified and discussed with partner institutions.

All incoming Erasmus students have access to the University's Language Center, and UFV's own students also use it to enable them to improve their linguistic skills prior to the study abroad period.

Teacher exchanges are valued and encouraged as part of the University's policy to continue to develop bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

Currently we are exploring the possibility of developing double and joint degrees with European and American Universities. Within the 2013-2018 five-year planning of our university academic activities, this will be one of the strategic priorities.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organization 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)

UFV fosters the participation of staff in international cooperation projects that serve the purpose of global responsibility and leadership. Teaching and training projects includes giving the participants the opportunity to be exposed to best practices and methods that improve the quality of their teaching.

Coherence between course elements, the theory-practice issue, extending school - based experience, the establishment of good partnership arrangements for teaching supervision, the fostering of action research of prospective teachers, international cooperation between higher institutions, strengthening the European dimension in the training of science teachers are very important tasks for co-operating institutions in the projects in teaching and training implemented under the Programme..

Our strategic focus for the organization and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and training aims to provide UFV staff with the opportunity to get to know and compare with own experience the strategies and practices for the organization of teaching

training initiatives. The specific objectives of the initiatives in this area are to give participants the opportunity to:

- ✓ Acquire knowledge about policies and strategies for the organization and management of teacher training activities
- ✓ Acquire information of the existing methods and experiences for the organization and management teacher training initiatives
- ✓ Share best practices with teacher training institutions
- ✓ Development of new contacts and explore opportunities
- ✓ Provide insights into the strategic aspects of teacher training
- ✓ Allow for interchange of ideas amongst teachers in an international setting

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernization of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernization Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)*

The Programme offers many activities for learning mobility, creating opportunities to internationalize its students and staff. In its new International Strategic Plan, UFV has increased the number of activities and agreements, increasing in this way the potential impact of mobility.

Curriculum development in collaboration with UFVs EU and non-EU partners is one of the key strategic goals (structure and content). Developing innovative learning environments is a particular area of interest for project collaboration

To foster the quality of teaching, UFV offers academic staff opportunities for professional development (pedagogical innovation awards, pursuit of excellence, key alliances with leading institutions).

Competency-based curricula, work placements, a mentoring programme and career counseling are tools offered by UFV to improve the employability of its graduates.

Regarding the impact on the modernization of our University, the main expected outcomes are in the following areas:

- ✓ *Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.* Increasing of the competence of teachers and researchers, with the subsequent impact in graduate employment outcomes.
- ✓ *Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation.* Building mobility more systematically into the different curricula of our University and Ensuring the efficient recognition of credits gained abroad.
- ✓ *Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.* Development of entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills as well as encouraging partnership and cooperation with business.
- ✓ *Improving governance and funding.* Creation of a new coordinating body for international projects within the University and increase financial support for selected participant and projects.