

## **Erasmus Policy statement (EPS) 2021-2027. University Francisco de Vitoria (E MADRID28)**

The University Francisco de Vitoria (UFV) has actively promoted student mobility as an added value towards the employability of graduates since its foundation back in 1993. In 2019 above 500 students (including incoming and outgoing) participated in an international exchange programme. While there has been an increase in the number of exchanges with non-European institutions, Erasmus remains the major mobility program for students and staff at UFV. Thus, its internationalisation strategy has been re-defined in a new International Strategic Plan (2019-23). In the context of the Strategic Planning Process, UFV has adopted a new Integrated Institutional Internationalisation model. Internationalisation affects all university areas (teaching and research) and UFV promotes a comprehensive and transforming internationalisation, inclusive of the entire university community, which contributes to the humanisation of an increasingly global world. This model includes four main areas: (a) Culture; (b) Organizational Structure; (c) Leadership and People; (d) System and Processes. UFV is currently leading a thorough and transformative revision of our internal regulations and procedures through three main projects: An Integral Mobility Plan, an Internationalisation Management Model and a new Language Planning and Policy across the university. Our goal is to give all interested students from different backgrounds the possibility to gain high-quality international experience through a period of study or work abroad.

The Erasmus+ Programme offers many activities for learning mobility, creating opportunities to internationalise students and staff. As part of its International Strategic Plan, UFV will increase the number of international activities as well the list of exchange agreements and partnerships with institutions which have a similar academic profile, common areas of interest and shared institutional values, often built on prior academic co-operation and collaboration. The objective is to continue on this path in order to provide students from all study areas and staff with the added value of an international experience and the main skills to progress and prosper professionally, but also enable them to be engaged citizens. Moreover UFV is currently implementing and developing new digital learning and exchange initiatives in collaboration with partners abroad. There is no doubt that participating in the Erasmus+ Programme will play a crucial role in enabling cooperation within Europe, with the EU neighbourhood and beyond.

The implementation of internationalisation at home activities on campus is directly linked to UFV's new Strategic Plan. We are committed to facilitating that incoming and outgoing teaching and research staff with an international profile come together here as well as attracting high-profile students from other countries in order to boost the international experience of UFV home students. This environment of diversity, multiculturalism and new learning approaches will serve incoming and outgoing students as a source of inspiration to acquire and develop the knowledge and skills needed for the current job market. Furthermore, UFV will keep on making great efforts to ensure the integration of foreign and home students, academic and teaching staff through the buddy programme, the Spanish language courses, personalised mentoring sessions, volunteering opportunities and different cultural activities embedded in the curriculum.

Curriculum development in collaboration with UFVs EU and non-EU partners is another key strategic goal at UFV (structure and content). Furthermore the design of innovative learning environments is a particular area of interest for project collaboration. In line with UFV modernisation strategy, our University offers academic staff opportunities for professional development (pedagogical innovation awards, pursuit of excellence, key alliances with leading institutions) to foster the quality of teaching. Therefore, an important promotion campaign will be carried out by the UFV Vice-Rectorate for Internationalisation to encourage UFV staff to participate in exchanges for teaching and training in the framework of the Erasmus Programme.

The UFV Vice-Rectorate for Research maintains a strong interest in boosting research and engaging UFV academics in research projects in collaboration with research institutes, universities and other organisations worldwide. Therefore a European projects office has been recently established on campus. This office will lead to the development of research projects at international level as well as drive innovation and excellence in teaching methods and support structures at UFV.

Regarding the impact on the modernisation of our University, the main expected outcomes will cover the following areas:

- ✓ Improve the quality and relevance of higher education. Increase the competences of professors and researchers, with the subsequent impact on graduate employment outcomes.
- ✓ Strengthen 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.
- ✓ Link higher education, research and business for excellence and regional growth. Development of entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills as well as encouraging partnership and cooperation with business. Competency-based curricula, work placements, a mentoring programme and career counselling are tools offered by UFV to improve the employability of its graduates.
- ✓ Improve governance and funding. Creation of a new coordinating body for international projects within the University and increase in financial support for selected participant and projects.
- ✓ Improve digitalization of all processes. UFV is constantly implementing new ICT tools across the university to improve services efficiency, data protection, communication and students' engagement. Thanks to the Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) project, the University will implement new digital systems in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative and the Vice-Rectorate for Internationalisation will promote its usage at all levels across the university to decrease the bureaucratic burden, and thus workloads and additional costs.

Thanks to the internationalisation and modernisation of education, services and processes within the institution, UFV will retain the best talent and attract the excellent students and staff.