

ERASMUS+ POLICY STATEMENT (OVERALL STRATEGY)

Internationalization has become one of the pillars of Vistula University mission. VU acknowledges the importance of development of qualified, well educated, internationally experienced students as future professionals. Hence, it has created a uniquely international atmosphere with academic programmes that attract students from all corners of the world and offers opportunities for students to acquire education in other parts of Europe. Each year we receive dozens of Erasmus+ exchange students from various European Universities and in return most of our international students also have the opportunity to spend a semester or a year as exchange students. The turnover of international students increases by 20-25% every year. Our partners come from most EU countries and they feature a wide range of socio-cultural, environmental, educational, business and technological dimensions so to satisfy the demands and expectations of all students at all levels. Their academic programmes range from computer science, economics to many fields of social sciences in bachelor's, master's and postgraduate degree levels. We offers 14 programmes taught in English at BA level, 6 programmes taught in English at MA level and about 25 postgraduate study programmes.

Following the Erasmus+ declared principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination policy, the university offers equal chances of benefiting from opportunities it provides to all students and staff no matter their beliefs, denominations and gender. Vistula University does its best to create a safe environment free of prejudice and discrimination within its own grounds. All incoming students and staff are taken excellent care of. Students are offered preparatory intensive language courses, sightseeing tours, service centre for career planning and internship, buddy programmes, lodging assistance and many more. Not only students but also academics and researchers find Vistula University a professional, hospitable and friendly place. VU is in position to attract the best international staff by making use of its existing and ever increasing number of mobility partnerships. Most of the visiting staff is closely related to industry and business thus combine both theory and practice, and as a result respond to the needs of modern education. Finally, in order to equip the students with practical knowledge, skills and competences they require to succeed in the ever more demanding labour market, VU offers its students, at all levels of their education, the opportunity to get training abroad.

Vistula University has developed partnerships with business communities within and outside EU, which are closely related to the field of studies of its students. The number of students/interns benefiting from these opportunities has steadily been increasing over the years. Al in all VU is striving to reach one of the main goals of modern education, which is to improve its quality and to match its contents to the demands of the world market.

A fundamental factor that determines development of education and research at any university is its cooperation with other universities, companies, organisations around the world. VU participates in global projects that go beyond the borders of Europe and benefits from a wide range of opportunities that such countries as Turkey, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, China, India and USA offer. Thanks to faculty and staff mobility VU has built strong ties with many foreign universities and has developed numerous fruitful relationships with scholars from other parts of the world. Exchange of knowledge and experience, organisation of Joint scientific symposia and conferences are one of the few benefits that all enjoy. New contacts are used to develop new multilateral study and research projects. VU has taken advantage of these in the last years and in the future wishes to become creators/partners of many more of such projects to the benefit of the entire academic community.

One of the examples of a fruitful European cooperation Vistula University is part of, along with 6 other European Universities, is an IP related to European Entrepreneurship among the Youth: "Scaling up from Local to Global". Thanks to the effective work of all the involved universities the IP has got the approval of the European Commission to develop the project in the next years. VU was also awarded a medal by the Business Centre Club and the European Social Committee for its innovative COOP-EDU programme (Cooperative Education). It is an integrated educational project that links theoretical knowledge with practical experience. Through COOP students discover what jobs look like in the real professional world by doing internships in such companies as Microsoft, Aster, IBM, Oracle, Saint - Gobain, Sequence and many others. Student internships within the framework of this cooperation are a mandatory element of education at VU.

In the context of delivering positive results for education, jobs and economic development in general, Vistula University, though it does its best, constantly tries to improve. It widely promotes and supports mobility of students, teachers, researchers and staff at all 3 levels, which is reflected in the growing numbers. The target, however, is to double the figures until 2017.

VU continuously strengthens the interaction between the university and businesses and in the future expects to seek even better quality placements so that students and graduates get the most professional practical knowledge needed for the workplace.

The effects of the students' work abroad and their efforts are recognised by using the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System and transferred into the Diploma Supplement. The transparency of recognition was achieved thanks to the participation in the Programme.

Vistula University assists graduates who terminate their education by offering career guidance and being aware of how important it is to the graduates, VU intends to develop this part in the very near future.

Vistula University has opened and intends to open even more new learning possibilities by introducing e-learning platforms. This mode greatly facilitates access to education to all people and will enable even more people to get access to opportunities. VU also offers virtual learning platform to its own staff enhancing their own career qualifications and intends to do so in the coming year.

AS far as financial funding, it is provided to support students who are in need and to those who excel in their studies as a form of incentive. This process will be continued. Business sponsors are sought to support research and education and this has been done with success. Many of Vistula University conferences, contests and projects are put into effect thanks to external funds that come from business entities.

To conclude, Vistula University is rich in academic excellence and leadership. Its mission is to contribute to the advancement of civilization. Its drive for quality in teaching and research has already been recognized by a number of national and International prestigious institutions among which is the International Association of Universities (IAU) and the World Council and assembly on Cooperative Education (WACE)

