

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The Pontifical University of Salamanca considers mobility and cooperation as central elements of its institutional policy.

Our institution gives utmost importance to the international aspect of its academic activities, to its international development in general, involving the whole university community and to its place within Europe and the whole world.

During the last years, our university has made a big effort to increase its participation in the different programmes of the European Commission. Besides, the university makes sure that this quantitative increase goes together with a higher quality of the exchanges.

Therefore, the intention of the Pontifical University of Salamanca to diversify, to increase and to strengthen the international cooperation will be transformed, within the Erasmus for All Programme, into the following specific aims:

- Increase of the number of partner HEI's: The most important facts we take into account when we search for a partner, is the academic affinity of the possible partner institution with UPSA, as well as assuring that the cooperation will be in benefit of our whole university community. Latin-America is for us an important continent to increase the number of HEI's. In spite of our language policy, many students and staff don't have a thorough command of a foreign language. So by increasing the partners of Latin-America, these members of our academic community have more opportunities to have an international Exchange or cooperation experience.

China is also an important market for international cooperation. We have already signed several agreements with Chinese HEI's during the last year, and we want to increase the number of Chinese partners in order to diversify our international cooperation to almost all the continents.

Increasing the number of HEI's includes also improving and strengthening the contacts with international partner HEI's, as it is the only way to assure the quality of the cooperation. The university will go on to promote the realization of

work visits, joined meetings and other types of communication that will improve and facilitate the cooperation with partner institutions.

- Extending the student mobility within Europe and outside Europe. We are aware of the importance and benefits of international student mobility. By increasing the number of HEI's, we will be able to augment also the number of students participating in international mobility programmes. We want to increase above all the mobility of second and third cycle students, as on this moment we almost don't have second and third cycle students who participate in mobility programmes. Many doctorate students aim for the international doctorate degree, and therefore they have to spend a period of 3 months at an institution abroad. Thus, we want to facilitate them this option.

The selection for student mobility will be made on a transparent way taking into account the academic results and the language level (where needed) of the individual student, as well as specific aptitudes or experiences that might be required for a specific Exchange. In any case, there will be no discrimination based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, ...

- Increasing teacher and staff mobility, opening the international experience to students who cannot participate in the mobility by themselves and having a wider knowledge about the academic and practical organisation of our partner universities. Teacher and staff mobility is very important to strengthen the contacts with the partner institution, but it is also essential for the internationalisation of the whole university community. To make the internationalisation strategy efficient and applicable, the whole university community has to be integrated in the process.

- Increasing student international traineeships. Until recently we had rather few students participating in the Erasmus practical training programme, this is due to the difficulties to combine the training period with the studies at UPSA. We aim searching a way (through distance learning, the use of moodle) to simplify the combination of the abroad traineeship with the domestic studies at UPSA. Our institution has signed agreements with several companies to improve the integration of UPSA into the labour market.

- Promoting the establishment of double degrees. Using the experience we already had with the double degree in communication with the Catholic University of Lille, we are looking for several options to start double degrees in other faculties and with other partners. Apart from being very interesting for our students, the implementation of double degrees, will give us the opportunity to cooperate in different cooperation projects.

The Pontifical University of Salamanca aims to start cooperation projects during the Erasmus for All programme.

The faculties will hand forward the initial proposal to participate in a cooperation project to the International Office who will study whether it fits into the general modernisation and internationalisation strategy of our institution and whether it benefits the professional development of our staff. Once approved, the International Office will establish and determine with the faculty in question the role of the Pontifical University of Salamanca and of the proposed partners, as well as the specific aims and the expected result. A crucial element before starting to develop the project is the choice of partners. The geographical situation and the experience and quality of the HEI's in the chosen subject area are fundamental. As the UPSA is a small institution, we have to consider that we have enough staff capacity to develop the project. Nevertheless, if needed, we will use additional resources to support the project.

Once started the cooperation project, we will give full visibility on the project activities and the results through our webpage.

We will organize meetings and seminars to involucrate not only the participating members but also the whole academic community. This will increase the consciousness on the importance of participating in cooperation projects on institutional level, what might lead to new proposals and initiatives by other members.

With the participation of our institution in the Erasmus for All programme, UPSA will be able to strengthen its policy on internationalisation and consequently this will have an impact on the general modernisation of our institution.

The most important objective we want to achieve at our institution is a general policy of internationalisation, in which students, staff, as well as administrative staff will cooperate.

The development of cooperation with strategic partners in EU and non-EU countries will mean for us the creation of a group of firm partners what will allow us to strengthen the cooperation between both parties.

Being able to count with firm partners will improve and increase student mobility for the 3 cycles as well as staff mobility. A special attention will be paid to underrepresented groups. The selection of students and staff will be transparent and clear, taking into account non-discrimination policies.

We will guarantee a higher quality of the mobility, as by counting with more and closer partners we can select the host university in function to the profile and interests of the students and staff.

We are very much aware that individual mobility and participation in cooperation projects will always contribute to the modernization of the whole institution. Special attention will be paid to the integration of the whole university community, as this is the only way to guarantee a complete internationalisation of our institution.

We will count with our partners to develop integrated, transnational teaching activities, such as joint courses, seminars in both HEI's and the creation of multiple and joint degrees, particularly for masters.

A firm cooperation with our partners will help us to create very attractive multiple and joint master degrees, which will benefit all the parties.

A firm cooperation with enterprises and with local, national and international organisations will allow us to have a major integration in the labour market and in society in general. This is crucial, as a HEI not only provides the students with a strictly academic preparation, but also gives the students a broad



education that will guarantee a successful cooperation into the labour market and into society in general.

The university will publish all the activities, projects, mobility programmes and achieved results related to the Erasmus for All programme at our web-page.

We are going to pay special attention to the visibility of the different activities of internationalisation, in all its stages (calls for proposal, selection, participation and results), as it is fundamental for the promotion and growth of the different programmes. The achievement of our objectives will surely turn out to be the growth of international activities and consequently the extension of our international office.