

UNIVERSITY OF VALLADOLID ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Valladolid is aware of the impact of internationalization and international mobility on the quality of Education. We regard Internationalization as the social, cultural and educative answer of our University to the impact of globalization. We, therefore try to implement policies, structures and strategies which will enable us to integrate internationalization in all processes, which means a gradual organizational and cultural change, and also in the educative processes. An International Policy Plan was designed by a working group formed by the Vice-Rector of International Affairs, the Director of Area of International Relations, Deans, Department Directors, Administrative Staff and Students. Once analyzed the state of the art through internal and external surveys, an strategic plan was designed. The UVA has planned a set of actions for which there is institutional support in order to change into a culture of internationalization:

-Internationalization is regarded as a benefit for all students, not only for mobility students, graduates, not only for those who will work abroad, for the university staff and for the Uva as institution.

-Internationalization at Home is an strategy based on the introduction of international aspects (Course contents, staff involved, bibliography and support materials, final projects, etc...)in all the educative programmes. We also take advantage in an organized way of the visiting professors and international researchers at the Uva, and of the Uva students and professors who have benefited from periods abroad under the framework of any of our programmes.

-Mobility programmes such as ERASMUS are key instruments for the internationalization of our institution. Priority areas for mobility are Europe, Latin America, North America and Asia. We plan to develop bilateral agreements with HE Institutions with these countries for mobility purposes making use of the existing contacts, the University Networks in which we participate: Santander Group, Tordesillas Group, NAFSA, EAIE, Montevideo Group, CICUE, among others, Casa India, Centro de Estudios de Asia, etc.. We will promote coordination and participation in international projects funded by the EU, and others: ERASMUS MUNDUS, ATLANTIS, TEMPUS, EDULINK, Ciencias sin Fronteras, Fundación Carolina, AECID.... A balance in terms of subject areas will also be searched, but also taking into account the most suitable destinations in terms of quality and language used. Mobility grants are available in all bachelor degrees of the Uva. Regarding Master and PhD, we expect to increase the number of bilateral agreements and we hope to have exchange programmes in most of them in two years' time. The Uva has designed a procedure for the implementation of PhD cotuteles which is currently being used in all the ERASMUS MUNDUS projects in which we are involved either as coordinators or as participants.

Increasing of Internships for our Bachelor, Master and PhD abroad. The ERASMUS Action has promoted the mobility of our students for their final project to enterprises abroad. Traineeship is a valuable instrument to increase the quality of education of our students, to improve their employability and, thus, it has a clear impact on the economic and social development of our region. We are promoting traineeships for our Education students and graduates in EU and

outside Europe through different programmes (AMITY, bilateral agreements,..) in order to meet the demands of the labor market (Teachers for bilingual programmes) and to promote the regional development and entrepreneurship. The Uva has allocated financial resources to partially finance this activity.

Regarding teaching and administrative staff, the Uva promotes mobility of academic staff for teaching and research purposes to European and non-European countries and for the establishment of joint activities such as double degrees. The Uva currently offers 12 double degrees at Bachelor and Master level in the areas of Business, Translation and Interpretation, Engineering, Mathematics, Telecommunications, Tourism and Agriculture.

-Re-design of the structure of the International Relations Office so that it can meet the challenges of the New Programme by providing IT support and reinforcing the International Projects Section.

-Internationalization of the administrative staff through the languages learning, mobility and training on internationalization: Organization of courses on internationalization at the Uva and promoting the participation of administrative staff in International Weeks (ERASMUS STT) organized by our partners.

One of the priorities on internationalization of the UVA is the participation in international (EU and non-EU) projects in teaching and training. We can attract high quality postgraduate students and renowned academic staff to our institution and we can offer excellent mobility opportunities to our students and staff through these international projects. Besides, they also provide visibility and promotion of the Uva abroad. Several actions have been carried out for this purpose:

- 1.-The establishment of **alliances and the participation in strategic networks**. We are active partners of the Santander Group and of the Tordesillas Group. We also promote the participation of our staff in congresses such as NAFSA and EAIE amongst others.
- 2.- A new **Section for International Projects** has been created at the IRO countries with three fulltime staff involved. It promotes the participation and coordination of international projects. All these projects are directly managed in this Section.
- 3.-To take into account the **existing international collaboration links** of our researchers with other institutions when we design international projects and to keep close contact with them during the life of the projects.
- 4.- To have the **support of the STIC** (IT Service at central level) for the design of IT tools for the management of international cooperation projects.
- 5.-The creation of the **INTERNATIONAL WELCOME POINT**, which will be launched in September 2013 to give full support mainly to incoming postgraduate students, academic staff and researchers in terms of visa procedures, medical insurance, accommodation, University card, support to the families, work permits, etc.
- 6.- Promote the participation in **ERASMUS Intensive Programmes** They are a useful tool for making our degrees more attractive, for offering complementary education to students and an international dimension. This is also important in terms of employability.

The Uva will actively participate in the new Erasmus for all Programme 2014-2020 and this will enable us reaching the objectives we are currently facing:

1.- We will raise attractiveness of our institution: The Uva compromises itself to actively promote the **training of researchers**. The **active participation in International projects** attract outstanding researchers, will promote high level joint research projects and the design attractive doctoral programmes.. The creation of **joint and double PhD and the doctoral thesis cotuteles** will attract more students from all over. The number of programmes and **courses taught in English** will also be increased to make our degrees more attractive and to raise the employability of our graduates. We will also work on further development of traineeships of students at all levels in and outside Europe through the programme.

2.- The Uva is committed with the **use of ICTs** in order to enrich teaching and to offer support to personal learning. There are other IT programmes for the periodical evaluation of the teaching and research performance of the academics and the Electronic Administration is about to be implemented. The on-line teaching will be implemented more intensively.

3.-Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation:The Uva will enhance the increase of mobility flows through the participation in projects within the framework of the new Programme ERASMUS FOR ALL This will be reinforced by the launching of the International Welcome Point, which will facilitate the incoming of students of all levels and academic staff.

4.-Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development:The University of Valladolid actively participates in a large number of Technological Centres. A large number of Technological Based Enterprises (EBT) have been created at the Scientific Park of the University of Valladolid. <http://www.parquecientificouva.es/presentacion/conoce-el-parque>. Campus of International Excellence Award (CEI) was granted by the Spanish Ministry of Education in October 2011 for the Ecomobility The Uva is making a strong effort to increase the relationship with the enterprises in the region and the mobility for traineeships within the new Programme in and outside Europe. The objective is to provide society skilled human capital, which will directly enhance the creation and attraction of enterprises to our region. Special support will be given to those degrees such as External Commerce, Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language, Biotechnology and Agriculture, which have a direct impact on our region's economy.

5.- Improving governance and funding . The Uva expects to keep the funds for co-funding international mobility and the other internationalization actions derived from the Strategic Plan. We also look for financing from banks, foundations and enterprises.