



Universidad
de **Valladolid**

Servicio de
Relaciones
Internacionales

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

The University of Valladolid (UVa), is aware of the need of internationalization and international mobility on the quality of Education. We regard internationalization as the social, cultural and educative answer of our institution to the impact of globalization and a key instrument for modernizing the UVa. We, therefore, implement policies, structures and strategies which will enable us to integrate internationalization in all processes, which means a gradual organizational and cultural change in teaching, research and administration. An International Strategy was designed by a working group formed by the Vice-Rector for internationalization, the International Relations Office (IRO) members, Deans, Department Directors, Administrative Staff, students and Unions. Once analyzed the state of the art through internal and external surveys, a Strategic Plan was designed and it was passed by the University Senate as part of the University Strategic Plan in March 2019. The ERASMUS Programme perfectly fits in our institutional and modernization strategy, since it is a key instrument to reach the objectives identified in the Plan. A set of axes were defined in it:

1. Increase of mobility of students and staff. ERASMUS is a key instrument for it. We plan to intensify our relationship with our European partners and with institutions in partner countries. Thanks to KA107 we have been able to reach areas of the world with which there was none or little collaboration and we intend to increase this co-operation. The mobility with these countries will enable us to promote our institution and to explore possibilities of future cooperation in terms of capacity building, PhD cotutelles or joint research projects. We also plan to increase the number of traineeships in other European countries at bachelor, master and PhD level through the creation of a “Bank of Enterprises” for placements for our students all over the Europe. This will be done with the help of the academics who participate in ERASMUS ST mobility and the incoming professionals. We will increase the number of professionals under the ERASMUS INCOMING PROFESSIONALS Programme (we currently receive around 50 every year) who deliver courses under the ERASMUS ST framework in order to internationalize the courses, to enhance the relationship of our academics with the enterprises and to find more placements for our students. 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. ERASMUS has enabled the mobility of our students for their final project to enterprises abroad. Last but not least, we will keep on working on inclusion: We will work harder on the participation of disadvantaged groups in student and staff mobility and of disable students and staff with logistic and financial support from the UVa and with a close collaboration between IRO and the Social Services Unit at the UVa and with

ONCE Foundation. We will carry out surveys to our students and staff in order to evaluate our mobilities management and to improve it, if this is the case.

2. Make the UVa more attractive for other institutions abroad. The ERASMUS Programme has somehow forced the University to create INTERNATIONAL SEMESTERS, taught in English, in our Faculties in order to attract students from all over the world, and most of them in the framework of ERASMUS. We plan to launch International Semesters in all our Faculties by 2027 (Nursing and Medicine are pending). This will enable us to collaborate with high quality institutions in all parts of the world. Besides, we plan to organize a set of International Weeks yearly which will provide more visibility to the UVa. We will also intensify our “Programa Embajadores” which enables our students to make UVa promotion activities at the partner universities during their mobility. Finally, we plan to increase the number of Spanish courses for foreign students, face-to-face, online and blended and to add an intercultural perspective to them.
3. Internationalize teaching and research. We will take advantage of the visiting professors under ERASMUS for the introduction of international aspects in the programmes: Course contents, comparative studies, international bibliography, final projects, etc, as a tool for Internationalization at Home. We plan to increase the number of regular courses taught in English and for this, we will design a regulation for the teaching in English which will include actions to support the teaching staff training, accreditation and recognition. We also plan to increase the number of blended courses and the online courses to adapt our institution to today’s demand. ERASMUS will also support the design of double degrees with partner institutions. Most of the current ones were established with ERASMUS partner institutions. We have already established 12 double degrees and we plan to establish new ones in the areas in which there are no double degrees yet.
4. Institutional reinforcement: We will intensify the participation in University networks and associations. We actively participate in SGroup (Members of the Executive Committee and Secretary), Tordesillas Group (Secretariat located at UVa), NAFSA, EAIE, Montevideo Group, CRUE-International, Casa India, Centro de Estudios de Asia, among others. We will promote coordination and participation in international projects funded by the European Commission and others: ERASMUS, Horizon 2020, Fundación Carolina, AECID, etc. We will make a strong effort to succeed in European Universities Project. We already participate in the European Universities project proposal EUMotion+ presented in 2020 under the coordination of the University of Wurzburg (DE). This program is key for the modernization strategy of the UVa and it is aligned with our Strategic Plan. This project has three objectives: The digitalization of teaching and management, regional development to avoid depopulation of the regions involved and the enhancement of active collaboration of universities with local and regional stakeholders and authorities. We also participate in KA2 projects as coordinators and partners and we participate in an ERASMUS Mundus Joint Master. The UVa has designed a detailed procedure for the implementation of PhD cotuteles and we carry out around 10 PhD cotuteles every year with European institutions. Mobility of students and staff for cotutelle purposes is

carried out under ERASMUS. We plan to increase the number of PhD Cotuteles under ERASMUS in the coming years.

The UVa will also enhance the reinforcement of European citizenship awareness and the immersion of the incoming students and staff in the University community and the social and cultural life of our city. For this, we closely cooperate with ESN and we created an International Welcome Point, which cares about all the needs of our incoming students and staff.

Finally, the UVa will redesign the structure of the International Relations Office (IRO), so that it can meet the challenges of the New Programme by providing IT support for the implementation of the digital procedures in the mobility actions and reinforcing the International Projects Section.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

We will actively participate in the new ERASMUS Programme 21-27 and this will enable the UVa to reach the objectives we are currently facing. We will use SIGMA (Partner of EWP) for the management and signing of bilateral agreements, Learning Agreements and ToRs and we are working hard to be ready for it on time.

In terms of mobility, we plan to actively participate in KA103 and in KA107. In spite of the number of students going down at our university due to the demographic trend, our objective is to keep the number of outgoing and incoming students for SMS mobility and to increase the numbers (currently nearly 100) of outgoing students for traineeships, so that we can offer our students the access to a first immersion in the labor market in a multicultural environment and the possibility to apply the theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom in the professional life. This will increase their employability, which is a key issue in a region with a high unemployment rate, and it will also increase the students' entrepreneurship skills. All this will contribute to the economic development of our region.

Regarding incoming students, we will increase the number of courses taught in English and we expect to offer International Semesters in all Faculties by 2027 (Nursing and Medicine are pending) in order to make our university more attractive to other institutions and to students from Europe and other parts of the world.

We will increase the mobility of Staff for teaching and for training in all areas of studies and in all degrees at bachelor, master and PhD level by increasing the number of calls and providing more co-funding from the UVa. We will foster the reception of Incoming Professionals in all areas of study by increasing the number of calls, by providing more funds from the UVa and by offering full support from the IRO.

We plan to give more visibility to the good practices through videos in our webpage and by spreading the information in the media, facebook and twitter in collaboration with the Communication Department of the UVa.

The UVa expects to keep financial support for co-funding mobilities and the other internationalization actions derived from the Strategic Plan. We also look for financing from banks (Banco Santander), foundations (Fundación Carolina, etc), enterprises and the national and the regional governments.

Moreover, we plan to participate in Capacity Building projects in order to co-operate with our partners in other parts of the world and this will also contribute to a higher quality in research and a better management at our institution. We currently co-ordinate and participate in KA2 projects in key areas: Renewable energies with Tunisia and Egypt, Recognition issues with Brazil and Argentina and Tech Transfer and Entrepreneurship with Brazil and Argentina. These projects made us improve our research, Governance and management and to link higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development. We plan to participate in projects in strategic areas such as Telecollaboration and online learning, Education, renewable energy and digitalization amongst others.

We are also determined to participate in European Universities. We already participate in the project proposal EUMotion+, which was submitted in February 2020 and we hope it will be approved since it will enable us to address most of the strategic objectives the UvA has identified in the Strategic Plan. In the case it is not approved, we will keep on improving the project in order to reach our objectives.

The participation in all these projects will enhance the modernization of our institution, it will also give UvA more visibility and it will make it more attractive to other European and non-European higher education institutions.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

Quantitative indicators:

The UVa is focused on increasing mobility in SMS in areas in which there is less participation, such as Engineering and Medicine

We expect to increase the number of SMP 50% and the mobility of PhD students 50% by 2025. We intend to increase the number of incoming students at least 20% by 2025, thanks to the establishment of International Semesters in all Faculties, by increasing the number of blended courses and of courses offered in English and by intensifying the promotion of the UVa through the "Programa Embajadores".

We will take measures such as recognition and financing of academic staff for attracting incoming professionals in our classrooms under STT. We plan to receive incoming professionals in at least 50% of our degrees by 2027.

We plan to increase the number of International Weeks up to five per year by 2027 in order to promote our University within European Higher Education Institutions.

We have updated our regulation on PhD cotutelles in order to make it as flexible as possible so that the number of cotutelles with ERASMUS+ partners can be increased 50% by 2027.

Moreover we will establish double degrees at master and/or bachelor level in all areas of study with ERASMUS partner universities by 2027. A new regulation for this was submitted in early 2020.

The participation of the UVa in KA107 is already very active, with 34 countries from Regions 1,2,3,6,7,8,10,11,13 (according to the Erasmus+ Programme Guide) and 290 grants awarded in the call 2019. UVa plans to foster its presence in these countries and to increase the impact of the project, working on the needs of the partner countries and taking advantage of the cooperation achieved in order to establish other KA2 projects with them, such as Capacity Building. UVa will foster these possibilities of cooperation among its academics, so that at least, in each ERASMUS+ call for proposals we participate as coordinators in one project and as partners in 10 projects.

Regarding European Universities, we expect to succeed with the project submitted in February 2020, EUMotion+, in this call or in the next one, so that we will get a valuable support from our partners for digitalization of teaching and management and establishment of blended and online courses and telecollaboration. We will also take

measures to avoid regional depopulation and we will foster systematic collaboration with regional stakeholders and authorities.

Qualitative indicators:

All ERASMUS beneficiaries, incoming and outgoing students and staff and incoming professionals will fill in a survey in order to know their level of satisfaction and to measure the impact of the mobility activity in their academic / professional life and the multiplier effects of the mobility: links established, joint research activities, co-publications and new projects. These surveys will be analyzed and taken into account to improve procedures and management of the mobility projects.

Every year, all the results of the ERASMUS KA1 and KA2 will be analysed at the IRO in order to learn about the level of accomplishment reached according to the Strategic Plan and the EPS and the impact of ERASMUS at UVa. A detailed report is presented to the Rector of the UVa, to the Governing Body and to the Vice-Deans of International Relations at every Faculty (CRIs), which will be discussed in order to reach the objectives or re-address them, according to the needs and the current situation.