

Erasmus Policy Statement

Strategy - selection of partners, geographic areas, objectives and target groups. Development of JDD programmes.

Palacký University wishes to establish and develop its position as a respected and visible international university. A strong international involvement is central to achieve university's goals in education, research and knowledge transfer, as stipulated in the university general strategy. International dimension should become an integral part of the academic environment in all core activities, in all academic disciplines.

Geographically, the university plans to maintain and develop the existing cooperation with institutions in Europe, North America and Latin America. At the same time it will focus on strengthening its contacts and partnerships in other parts of the world, especially in those areas with potential to become key knowledge regions in the near future.

The international strategy of Palacký University is structured around the following priorities:

- **Student mobility**
Palacký University has entered into nearly 600 agreements for student exchange within the Erasmus programme and maintains around 60 bilateral agreements with universities in all parts of the world. In order to attract the best students, the university has created services for all types of international students. These services include dormitory accommodation, visa application assistance, orientation programme, language courses, buddy system and others. The university also wishes to provide all its students with the opportunity to include a period of study abroad in their study programme. Such a period has become integral part of all Ph.D. study programmes. In order to facilitate student mobility, the university has established procedures for credit transfer and full recognition of study abroad, as well as academic and practical guidance.
- **Academic and other staff mobility**
Teaching and training international mobility of academic and other staff is very important for creating an international environment for all mobile and non-mobile Palacký University students. The university will create conditions for all staff members to participate in short and longer academic or training periods abroad, especially in the early stages of their careers.
- **Internationalisation of Education**
The university wishes to strengthen the international dimension of its programmes, especially at Master's and Doctoral level. While the main language of instruction is Czech, the university will focus on developing more courses, modules and full degree programmes in other languages, mostly in English. Participation of Czech students in courses and modules in foreign languages will be encouraged to support their language competences and international classroom environment in most study programmes.
The university will further develop its portfolio of double degree programmes provided in cooperation with universities in other European countries. These programmes at Masters and Doctoral level should combine strengths of all participating institutions and bring added value of international environment while maintaining high quality standards.
- **Internationalisation of Research**
Research at Palacký University ranges from basic to applied research, as well as knowledge transfer. The university takes an active part in international research cooperation in many

areas. In recent years the university established several research centres that open infrastructure for creating and developing top quality international research teams. The university plans to attract the best international researchers, especially those in the early stage of their careers. At the same time the university will encourage outgoing research mobility of its PhD students and researches.

- **Strategic Partnerships**

As mentioned above the university has several hundred Erasmus bilateral agreements and some 60 international cooperation agreements covering student and staff mobility as well as research cooperation. The university wishes to establish and develop strategic partnerships with those universities which match its own education and research profile, thus supporting strong academic environments for international networks, research cooperation and mobility.

- **International Marketing**

Palacký University wishes to be known as a leading research and educational institution. It will focus on increasing visibility to potential international students at Master and Doctoral level as well as to postdoctoral scholars and researchers. The university will use different forms of communication, adapted to different target groups.

The university will also increase its international visibility through promoting and disseminating the results of its research activities.

The university will encourage its academic and other staff to represent it in subject specific and university-wide international forums.

International cooperation programmes

To achieve the goals of its general and international strategy, the university wishes to increase its participation in international cooperation programmes of education and training. These programmes should include development of strategic partnerships with educational institutions of high profile, development of joint study and training programmes with European and international partners, establishing knowledge alliances with research institutions and enterprises in research priority areas, and capacity building projects with neighbouring countries and third countries.

The university will search and develop partnerships that will add to the educational and knowledge profile of the university in the international context. Based on already existing links with European and international institutions, the university will focus on identifying suitable cooperation programmes in its priority areas, especially in neighbouring countries and priority geographical areas as mentioned above (North America, Latin America, emerging educational regions). Participation in any of the cooperation projects will be carefully prepared in respect to its impact on Palacký University and partner institutions future development and modernisation. As part of this preparation, project specific support measures will be identified at institutional and departmental level.

The university will ensure that projects will be sustainable, balanced and relevant to institutional capacity. It will ensure the visibility of project activities and results through all available means with special attention to possible spin-offs and future exploitation of results.

Modernisation agenda

In its international activities, the university will follow the priorities of the EU modernisation and internationalisation agenda in higher education:

The university will ensure that its international activities are open to students of all programmes including part time and distance learners, students from underrepresented groups and 'non-traditional' learners, including adults.

It will strive to provide transparent information on international educational opportunities, as well as tailored guidance to ensure informed study choices. Increasing number of high quality international doctoral candidates and early stage researchers should participate in its educational and research activities.

In order to further develop the quality and relevance of its study programmes, the university will support international staff exchanges as means for academic and other staff continuous professional development and exchange of knowledge that will influence learning environment, bring new teaching and research methods into curricula, and foster employability and entrepreneurship among students.

The university will develop high quality and relevant doctoral training programmes that will increase global employability of its graduates and at the same time attract international candidates. It will further develop existing research centres with focus on international research teams and exchange of researchers, especially in the early stages of their career paths.

Following the existing trends and international strategy priorities, the university will aim to integrate international learning and training mobility into all study programmes and eliminate unnecessary barriers to international and cross border cooperation and exchanges of students and staff.

The university will consistently use ECTS and the Diploma Supplement as effective tools for efficient recognition of credits gained abroad.

The university will use cooperation programmes and schemes for intensive cross border, European and international cooperation.

The university will stress the importance of entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills in all disciplines and in all three cycles of study programmes. It will further develop existing knowledge transfer infrastructures, such as its own Science and Technology Park, to encourage regional, European and international partnership and cooperation with business, research institutions and other public and private actors. It will strive to use its capacity for the creation of clusters of excellence and specialisation in the international context.

In order to support its international activities the university will seek to develop more effective and flexible ways of identifying and using alternative sources of funding and co funding of projects. It will focus its international efforts on faculties and departments individual strengths, support diversity of strategic choices in international activities and develop internationally recognised centres of excellence.

It will further modernise its human resource management to ensure continuing professional development of international and cross-cultural skills and capacities of academic and administrative staff.