

**D**

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

IMU was established in 2010 and is situated in Istanbul where civilisations and the two continents meet. Istanbul which is a bustling multicultural city perfectly situated for intercultural contact and cross-fertilization of ideas. IMU is a comprehensive university in its formative stages and several areas of strategic development have been outlined:

- translational medical research,
- biomedical engineering and bioengineering,
- renewable energy sources,
- social science research for social justice and community service,
- inter-civilisational dialogue, understanding and peace studies

The university has made internationalization one of its strategic pillars. We see the global context that IMU is now living offers an opportunity to make its efforts to establish high institutional quality, an internationally collaborative endeavour.

Internationalisation will be accomplished by the following actions. According to IMU Strategic Plan for 2014-2018; By the year 2018;

- IMU will make at least 50 agreements for student and staff mobility with foreign higher education institutions,
- At least 5 % of academic staff will be qualified foreign instructors,
- At least 5 % of its student body will participate in exchange programmes every year,
- At least 10 % of students in the language preparation year will participate in programmes abroad to practice foreign language skills,
- At least 5 % of students in its programmes with training components will participate in traineeship mobility programmes,
- Academic programmes that offer joint diploma programmes with foreign HEI's will constitute at least 8 % of the number of academic programmes,
- The proportion of foreign faculty from international HEI's visiting IMU will increase 10 % over the base number every year,
- At least half of those instructors who teach for at least two years at IMU's School of Foreign Languages will have certificates from CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Others Languages) and 10 % will have diploma from DELTA (Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Others Languages).

-Every year, IMU will organize at least 10 national or international congresses, symposia, or conferences,

To realise this vision, IMU will act to establish links and to firmly place itself visible in the international context. It will choose its partners based on the following priorities:

- quality of research and teaching activities,
- match between academic areas of study and focus,
- student and staff interest in the target institutions,
- likelihood of success for the exchange and mobility activities with regards to languages required and past activities.

Our focus for international collaboration is to support IMU's vision to become a research-oriented HEI. As such, IMU looks forward to initiate and collaborate multi-party research projects. At the same time, we will take full advantage of staff mobility programmes as a tool of incorporating EU quality standards and practices. This will facilitate the making of continuous development a vision shared by the university community. Student experiences abroad will add a valuable international academic dimension to their education. For this; we wish our partners will have i. high international prestige in teaching, research and overall ranking, and ii. have the potential to benefit from IMU's best practices.

One of IMU's core mission is to facilitate the meeting of civilisations, East and the West, as represented by its name (medeniyet: civilisation) and its unique geographical location. We primarily focus on three geographical areas for international collaboration.

- Europe and European Union,
- Middle East and Arab World,
- Central Asia and Asia in general

At present, IMU has cooperation agreements with over 60 universities globally from countries including, Egypt, Yemen, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, United States, China, Ukraine, and The Netherlands. These agreements are extensions of the Mevlana Programme (similar to Erasmus only with other than European countries) or bilateral endeavours for exchange and scientific collaboration. We do not have joint degree programs yet, but we have strong desire to initiate them with interested partners especially after we receive Erasmus Charter.

We realise that actualisation of mobility activities for our students and staff and guests will be affected by students' priorities and goals such as inter cultural experiences, research activities at the host institution or getting to know respected professors. Similarly, staff mobility participants may be looking for exposing themselves to new practices, intercultural contacts, and networking with fellow faculty. IMU will try to match the participants with the best possible host institution to accomplish their goals and at the same time use their experiences as "antennas" for new ideas and practices for the betterment of university business here.

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.

If not applicable, please explain (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

IMU's strategy for the organization and implementation of international cooperation projects rests on four basic components; namely motivation and information, involvement, assistance and recognition.

Academic, research and administrative staff will be motivated and informed about the international cooperation projects and what these projects can do to accomplish the broad institutional mission as well as departmental goals. This will be done through channels of institutional discourse at multiple levels such as general and departmental meetings, websites and distribution lists, public displays and one to one meetings. Creating an international project or collaborating in one will be explicitly included among the expectations of annual evaluations of the academic staff. Resources for these projects will be shared by the University's Office of Project Development, supported by other related offices such as International Office, Patent Office, Technology Transfer Office, Office of Scientific Research Projects and Technopark Office.

Development of international cooperation projects will be expected to be an activity both from bottom up and top to bottom, requiring the involvement of individuals as well as departments, institutes and faculty and university administration. Individuals or teams that have an interest in developing a project will be assisted and guided by the International Office and Office of Project Development. Finally, individuals or teams that complete an international cooperation project will be recognized throughout the university, via websites, and displays. Such individuals will also be duly rewarded in annual evaluations, tenure and promotion assessments. By this way, IMU aims to foster departmental and individual independence and create a sense of international engagement at all levels in the university.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda \*and explain which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue.(max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

With respect to the first action item for modernisation of European HEI's, IMU plans to take an active role to increase the number of qualified HE graduates. With the help of internationalisation initiatives, IMU will ensure that not only the teaching methods but also the course and program curriculum will be updated and modernised. Students at-risk, especially those who are first in college in the family and students from unconventional backgrounds (e.g., older returning students and students with special needs) will be followed up and supported by proactive and positive advisement. Academic advisors will be provided with necessary training and examples of good advising to make the advising process felt an important part of an academician's professional life. Exploiting the potential of ICT's, distance education programs will be initiated for suitable subjects to reach out to working students.

In regards to improving quality and relevance, partners from potential employers will be invited and encouraged to be involved in teaching of our students as well as curriculum design and training in workplace. We believe these will boost the marketability of the graduates, which will in turn create a positive cyclical demand for our programmes and students. Good teaching will be supported and recognised within the faculty. Graduates will be followed up by the university offices for the purpose of programme evaluation.

Mobility and international cooperation, and the notion of "knowledge triangle" melds well together into IMU's internationalisation and modernisation strategies. In the new global economic world, experiencing work and business environments with its cross cultural, creative, innovative and entrepreneurial dynamics will be possible by participating in international mobility programs such as Erasmus or Mevlana. For example, an IMU student studying tourism business administration should find it feasible and desirable to have her summer training at a tourism company in Germany or France, or a student in international relations should be able to follow a joint programme in place with a partner institution in England or Spain. Similarly, foreign students and staff from programme countries should find it desirable and beneficial to visit IMU's strong medical school or biomedical engineering programme and take advantage of what IMU and Istanbul have to offer at the same time.

We strongly believe good governance supported by a vision for multi-party research projects, quality programmes open to international cooperation, integrated with sector business and industry continuously updating the curriculum within the framework of Erasmus+ programmes will help create an excellent research university in these formative years of IMU.

\*COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)

**E**

## Endorsement of the application

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

*Place: Istanbul*

*Name: Prof. Dr. Hamit Okur Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 13/05/2014*

*I have read and accept the Privacy statement*

*Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)*

*Hamit Okur.*

*Original stamp or seal of the Institution*

