

## Erasmus Policy Statement of University Campus Bio-Medico (UCBM) 2021-2027

- Our mission is to bring together and to train highly prepared professional figures in teaching areas such as Medicine and Health Care, Engineering and Nutritional Science. It is our belief that the keys to the successful formation of our students lie in values such as knowledge, adjournalment and sharing of experiences.
- Our teaching method resulting in continuous interaction between research activity and clinical practice (for medicine, health care and nutritional science) and between the laboratory and translation science (for Engineering) promotes the development of skills which will result in excellent job opportunities when students qualify and move to work.
- Our students develop a broad set of management skills and possess an international professional perspective. The experience we have matured so far with the Erasmus programme have given our students a unique experience of confronting with a wide variety of national and international cultural background.
- Our Institution over the years has developed several basic science and clinical partnerships with International Institutions in the EU and also outside EU. The Erasmus programme has been active for the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Faculty of Science and Technology for Human and the Environment and the Faculty of Engineering for both student and staff exchanges.

### Objectives

Under this framework, the main objectives 2021-2027 have been established, with actions that are more or less challenging for the University:

#### **A. Provide an educational offer with the aim to prepare students be more competitive on an international scale.**

- **Enhance English language teaching on all degree courses**, moving from one subject per degree course to dedicated classes based on the level of language competence so that students will have individual goals to achieve and "capitalize on" also for the purposes of their university career. By the beginning of the next academic year all students will pass a test of knowledge of English with the goal of achieving a higher degree level over the duration of one year, which is also recognized for the purpose of testing English language curricular examinations.
- **Increase the educational offer provided in English** (lectures, seminars and workshops). The educational offers in English are a key tool to facilitate the process of internationalization. To this end, it is expected to start the planning of further training initiatives in English, also involving foreign students. Lectures, seminars and workshops, thanks to the new technologies implemented by the University, can be held in presence and/or online by internationally renowned Professors. This way a greater linguistic interaction between students, professors and technical-administrative staff is encouraged. Currently, the University is also starting a collaboration with Kaplan Educational Master Services that will allow students of Medicine and Surgery, during their studies, additional training in English in order to prepare for the USMLE qualification which allows them to be certified to practice surgery in the United States of America.
- **Design Double Degree**. A very ambitious and challenging project for the University. This medium- long term plan could also evolve from activities already in progress. In particular, the collaboration project of KA107 as well as the extension of a project already started with the University of Navarra that allows the recognition of an entire year of the degree course in Medicine and Surgery in the two Universities. The "Double Degree" allows the cross acceptance of qualifications in other countries, seamlessly facilitating the process of mobility for study.
- **Update and align the contents of the courses as per European standards**. This activity is essential and top priority for our University. The comparison of the contents of our University's courses with the programmes of prestigious international universities is part of a continuous process of growth and evolution that is an added value for the recognition of educational paths for the purposes of mobility for study.
- **Issue digitally authenticated degrees**. The rapid recognition of qualifications at an international level is essential to encourage the exchange of students from other countries. As we write, the evaluations and considerations to identify the external services that will facilitate the process of digital authentication of degrees issued by UCBM have started.

## **B. Increase the international network of contacts.**

- **Increase the number of strategic partnerships and agreements.** The University intends to attract the interest of other international universities through the research network of the Professors of the Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome, but also of the Visiting Professors who are increasingly integrated in the University's training activities.
- **Increase the number of exchange programs** for Professors, staff and students within the Erasmus+ Programme. Our University promotes and supports the mobility of students, professors (both incoming and outgoing) and administrative staff at European and international level, through the participation in the Erasmus+ Programme (KA101 and KA107) and in the Visiting Professor Programme (financed by University funds).
- **Organize Summer Schools in English.** The University believes that these initiatives are fundamental for the internationalization of the University, as they combine the linguistic and professionalizing dimension (as in the case of the Engineering Bootcamp), or can have a technical application (as the Python weeks). The topics of greatest interest are IOT and Artificial Intelligence.
- **Encourage the participation of students in international scientific societies.** The University considers such initiatives as opportunities for its students to share experiences with students from other international universities and with professionals of international importance. Typically, scientific societies have a space dedicated to "students" or "young professionals" with the aim of promoting exchanges (e.g. with conferences, seminars, competitions).

## **C. Attract students, researchers and professors from prestigious international universities**

- **Obtain financial support for study grants from public/private bodies** dedicated to Erasmus+ students as well as talented and deserving international students. The University intends to identify institutions, companies and foundations willing to collaborate with and support the internationalization process and at the same time benefit of the possibility to enrich their organisation with students from all over the world. This will allow UCBM, on the one hand, to provide economic benefits and important placement opportunities for international students and, on the other, for the professional world to come into contact, through our University, with open-minded graduates trained in an international context.
- **Increase the University's participation in international workshops and conferences.** Participation in international fairs and events, together with an important communication plan, has the objective of promoting the University's prestige on an international level and attracting motivated and deserving students regardless of country of origin. This approach aims to create not only courses delivered in foreign languages but also multicultural classes in which the dialogue between students of different ethnicities and nationalities is achieved.
- **Entering the international rankings.** Despite methodological limitations of indicators used in the various international rankings, entering this sector offers the University the possibility of an international comparison that makes the results of training and research activities visible and measurable, for the internal administration but also for students and families, in a constantly growing international context. In this way, the University can evaluate the objectives achieved by comparing them with the speed of growth of other international universities. This is a challenging, non-priority objective for the first three years.
- **Provide Italian language and culture courses for international students.** The University intends to promote its activities in schools or government agencies that work in this sector, in order to plan together a teaching proposal of Italian language and culture to encourage the integration of international students in the Italian university context.
- **Promote welcome and support services for incoming students.** The main objective is to promote the University's services in order to meet the needs of international students, also by giving greater visibility to organisational and support services (finding accommodation, opening a bank account, having a tax code, choosing a GP, applying for the Permit of Stay [Permesso di Soggiorno] and moving to Rome). Welcoming and integrating foreign students are priority objectives of our University that will be achieved through strengthening

tutoring activities and peer-to-peer working groups. The University is also launching an important language training activity aimed at staff who, at various titles and levels, interact in English with students, Universities, Embassies, and other public or private institutions. The aim is to improve the language skills of front office staff in order to provide the best possible service to foreign interlocutors.

□ **Simplify the selection procedures of Erasmus+ students** through an online nomination and application process for Erasmus students. This could facilitate and increase the number of students seeking a study or placement experience abroad. During this period of emergency, the selection procedures for the Erasmus+ Call 2020-2021 were also carried out remotely and were fully appreciated by applicants.

□ **Update website contents** so that the offer and services of the University can be better presented to international students, also through video tutorials, FAQ section and orientation manuals in English. The website is currently being revised in English, in order to make it easier to find information, Calls for Admission, guidelines, documents and forms dedicated to international students.

#### **D. Promote adult education and innovative practices in training**

□ **Define and deliver** learning methodologies tailored on the targeted group

□ **Define and deliver** learning methodologies tailored on the targeted group

□ **Increase the international partnership with organizations active in the field of adult education** (e.g. adult learning centres, high education institutions, public bodies, research institutes and organization providing courses and training)