

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Institution's international strategy:

Our mission at University Campus Bio-Medico (UCBM) 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, adjournment 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 both the Faculty of Medicine (including the course of Nutritional Science) and the Faculty of Bio-Engineering for both student and teacher exchanges.

The partner Universities with which we have collaborated have been chosen in the following European countries: UK, DE, FR, RO, ES, BG, FI and DK.

A) Usually the existence of a pre-existing scientific collaboration has represented the basis for the establishment of the mobility agreement.

B) Universities collaborating with us cover both North, East and West Europe. The collaboration for the Faculty of Medicine between our University and Queen Mary, University of London is of particular significance since very few exchanges of medical students are made with the UK Universities mainly due to the non compatibility of curricula. We are now establishing a new operating plan to make feasible the exchange of medical students enrolled in different years of the medical course.

C) Target group for our mobility activity included students in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycle. Due to the existing collaboration for Erasmus exchange we were able to establish also an International PhD programme with Queen Mary University of London in the UK and the University of Ulm in Germany which has led to the establishment of a joint recognized Degree in Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases.

Institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of International cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme:

The strategy that we have implemented in our Institution follows research programmes already established and still ongoing with the partner Universities by Professors at our University. This condition has definitely facilitated the implementation of the Erasmus exchange programme for students and teachers,

We experienced that obtaining funds from the EU may have a very significant impact in promoting a successful exchange programme for students and teachers participating in the project.

Expected impact for participation in the Programme on the modernisation of institution in terms of the policy objectives to be achieved:

Another aspect we think important for the modernization agenda is the introduction of teaching in English in order to facilitate the exchange students in countries where English is not the main language.

We intend to promote teaching in English in our courses, so that our courses could appear more attractive for some students.

Promoting Student-Centered Learning and encouraging student and teacher mobility is our priority at UCBM. We are aware of the Modernization Agenda and the following actions are intended to be implemented (some are already operative).

Considering the present financial climate, a general increase in private investment should represent a significant part of the required measures on financing higher education. Favoring progressive private investments in research innovative projects and common strategies is one of our priority. This action should be done while paying special attention to the social dimension of higher education. Stronger efforts are made to reduce barriers to access, progression and completion, including reaching out to non-traditional learners and reinforcing affordability of higher education and provision of student support services.

While increasing availability of higher education is relevant, we are aware that one major problem is represented by the lack of sufficient and progressive student support, especially for students coming from lower economic background. We are determined to follow-up on the commitment made in the Bologna Process to adopt measurable objective for improving the social dimension.

New strategy for internationalization is another priority of our agenda for modernization. Students from other parts of the world, in particular those from non-EU countries are encouraged to come to us by competitive and not higher charging tuition fees. At the same time, we are paying special attention to balanced mobility mainly limited due to the very low level and lack of support for European students going abroad to other parts of the world. The first step we are applying is to make the Erasmus programme for study mobility available to any destination in the world. In this respect it should be noted that with the Italian Foreign Office and the Ministry of University and Technological Research we have signed an agreement for student and teacher mobility with countries of Latin America.