

## Erasmus Policy Statement 2013

*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)*

The international strategy of the University of Lleida (UdL) is comprehensively included within the framework of the University General Strategic Plan 2013-2016, which is to be passed in May 2013, as well as in the Operational Plan for Internationalisation 2012-2016 (POI). Both documents regard the university internationalisation process as a global and comprehensive strategy key to its present and future consolidation as a higher education institution.

Concerning the selection of partners for mobility programmes, the POI includes the development of specific strategies, according to the needs and requests of every faculty and school, and also according to every degree programme. For this purpose, a process has already begun to identify the needs and to thoroughly revise all existing bilateral agreements so as to decide if the present offer of host universities fits the interests of every degree programme. Likewise, it will be possible to determine what measures are necessary to take in order to adjust such an offer, as needed.

At present, the UdL exchanges students and staff with universities mainly located in Europe and Latin America, even though some exchanges also take place in other areas, such as the United States, Canada, Africa and Asia. Operational Plan for Internationalisation 2012-2016 states that three criteria will be taken into account when identifying priority universities: a) offer of courses taught in English; b) countries of special interest depending on specific field of study; c) countries that our social setting considers of utmost interest.

The internationalisation process is aimed at the whole university community, that is, students, teaching staff, research staff, and administrative staff. The most important goals regarding teaching are as follows:

- Internationalisation of teaching, by increasing the number of courses taught in English and the number of foreign teaching staff hosted by the UdL, among other measures.
  - Increasing the number of outgoing students, firstly by adjusting curricula to make mobility easier, secondly by offering internships in foreign companies linked to the economic fabric of the Lleida region, and thirdly by stimulating mobility.
  - Rising the number of incoming students, by organising a dissemination campaign about academic programmes offered by the UdL, by increasing the range of modules taught in English, and by reinforcing orientation and integration activities meant for foreign students, among other actions.
- Recruiting a larger number of international students interested in obtaining a full degree at the UdL. To achieve that purpose, the UdL means to: a) design a competitive academic offer on an international level; b) promote dissemination activities; c)

establish a joint system to assist and monitor foreign students; d) foster integration programmes, among other actions.

POI also aims at increasing international double and joint degrees. Several requirements are necessary in order to implement double degree programmes: a) mutual understanding of curricula; b) analysis of requirements in every degree programme, according to the interests of every university and to the regulations in each country; c) agreement on the conditions under which students will be able to obtain the double degree. The UdL always intends to safeguard, most of all, an academic training of high quality and of interest to the students, a solid academic training oriented towards employability and with a clear international purpose.

*If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)*

Those international cooperation projects in the field of academic training in which the University of Lleida participates will have to adjust to the guidelines established in the Operational Plan for Internationalisation (POI) at the University of Lleida, and also to the specific strategies set up by every faculty or school for each degree programme.

In particular, the POI gives priority to: a) participation in projects leading to the rise of number of outgoing and incoming students (internships inclusive); b) setting up double and joint degrees; c) cooperation with the local business fabric to offer internships to foreign students.

Likewise, the UdL will drive a check and assessment of bachelor's and master's degree programmes in order to guarantee European quality standards, and to increase its capacity for recruiting international students.

From a geographical point of view, projects with so-called preferential countries will be prioritised, especially those involved in cross-border cooperation. In the case of cooperation programmes including mobility for placements, those countries of special interest for the companies in the Lleida region will be specially taken into account.

Depending on the nature of every project, it will be prepared and managed at central level or at faculty level with the support of the Vice-Rectorate for International Relations and Cooperation. The International Relations Office will be in charge of the administrative tasks in the case of those mobility programmes aiming at recognition of studies taken in other higher education institutions

*Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)*

The participation of the University of Lleida in the Programme is essential to be able to reach the aims of modernisation set up in the University Strategic Plan 2013-16. In particular, and regarding the five priorities established by the Modernisation Agenda:

*Increasing the success level to provide the graduates and researchers that Europe needs:*

The participation in the different actions of the programme, specially those referring to the mobility for studies and for placements in foreign companies, will increase the recruitment capacity of the UdL, and it will make it easier to recruit a larger number of local, national, European and international students. This higher recruiting capacity will also allow the training of a larger number of researchers.

*Improving the quality and relevance of higher education:*

The Operational Plan for Internationalisation of the UdL for the period 2012-2016 was produced with the active participation of small and medium enterprises located in the region of Lleida. One of the measures included in the Plan was to stimulate mobility programmes with learning purposes so as to adjust graduate qualifications to the needs of the companies.

*Strengthening quality by means of mobility and cross-border cooperation*

One of the most important aspects mentioned in the POI is the improvement of quality in curricula by means of a systematic integration of the mobility programmes, on the one hand, and the internationalisation of the curricula contents, on the other hand. Besides, the UdL aims at improving the experience of students participating in these programmes, by means of a major involvement of teaching staff in dissemination and counselling.

Regarding cross-border cooperation, the University of Lleida is part of EBRoS Western Pyrénées, that is, a cross-border cooperation project between the Ebro Valley International Excellence Campus and the universities of Toulouse and Pau.

*Making the knowledge triangle effectively work: linking higher education, research, and companies to strengthen excellence and regional development.*

The UdL is aware of its driving-force role in the social and economic growth, as well as in the internationalisation, of its immediate environment. For that purpose, the University counts on the Board of Trustees, the UdL Foundation, and the Scientific and Technological Park. One of the objectives in the POI is to boost placement programmes by getting companies involved.

*Improving effective governance and funding:*

One of the actions in the Strategic Plan 2013-16 intends to consolidate the University management model, through a series of processes, and to drive it to excellence following European criteria. One of the expected results of its participation in the programme is an important increase in administrative staff mobility so as to improve

non-teaching training and thus to have an effect on all university services and on the university administration as well.