



## University of Vienna: Erasmus Statement on University Policy (General Strategy)

The University of Vienna is a university with an international focus. It considers internationalisation as an essential instrument for increasing the quality of research and teaching and communicating political and cultural vision. It enables both students and staff to acquire global responsibility, social understanding and an open and tolerant basic attitude. The aim of the internationalisation strategy is to position the University amongst the best research universities of Europe, to raise its international profile in research and teaching and to increase the international visibility of its activities in the fields of research and teaching.

### a) Selection of the partners

Within Europe/the EU, the University of Vienna has currently over 350 partner universities. There is no proposal for significantly increasing the number of Erasmus partnerships, and instead the focus is on consolidating and rounding off what already exists. New agreements are to be concluded or existing agreements expanded if there are new research contacts or new teaching cooperation activities, if the curricula are sufficiently compatible and if the observed or expected take-up is or will be high. Agreements within which mobility has ceased should be allowed to expire.

Outside Europe/the EU, we conclude a small number of partnerships with high-ranking universities. Efforts are made to expand bilateral exchange agreements at university level with renowned universities following discussion with the faculties and the staff responsible for teaching if the expansion is compatible with the faculties' focal points of research and strategic objectives.

### b) Geographical focus

Alongside the focus on cooperation agreements with institutions in countries that participate in the Erasmus programme, the University of Vienna, in accordance with its tradition and its internationalisation strategy, places its geographical focus on Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and, outside Europe, on North America, Australia and the focal-point regions of Asia.

### c) Targets and target groups

Internationalisation is interpreted as a matter for all university employees, with a particular focus in terms of studies and teaching, on the following objectives:

Increasing the mobility of students (differentiated according to Bachelors, Masters and doctorate levels) and teachers, enhancing student and teacher foreign-language and intercultural skills, increasing the percentage of international students in the Masters and Ph.D./doctoral courses, and the further development of non-German language degree courses (Masters/Ph.D.).

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The increased competition for talented students requires the University to enhance its profile. For this reason, the University of Vienna encourages the competitive acquisition of third-party funds as a necessary supplement to the University's regular financing, and considers its international focus as an important resource that opens up possibilities for cooperation and enables competitive opportunities to be exploited.

As project partners, the University will primarily select institutions that are comparable in terms of structure and content focus, and institutions with which there are already corresponding (research) contacts and cooperation activities. The selection of the projects and of the partner institutions must also take account of the fact that the contents of the projects must correspond with the faculties' strategic and content focus, with the result that account can be taken both of how the project is to be handled within the faculty and of the interests of the University as a whole.

During the execution and implementation of the projects, the relevant University-internal stakeholders must be involved so as to ensure that the results are incorporated at institutional level within the University.

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The University of Vienna is committed to the 5 priorities of the modernisation agenda, which it justifies as follows:

1. The raising of the educational level to cover Europe's need for graduates and researchers. With its 90,000 students and approximately 9,000 graduates completing their studies every year, the University of Vienna is the most important educational institution in the tertiary sector in Austria. The University pays particular attention to the employability of its curricula, and regularly reviews them from this point of view. The University makes every effort to cover the quantitative increase in the need for a qualified workforce by improving the feasibility of its curricula and by increasing the number of graduates.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of a university education. The University of Vienna always strives towards increasing the quality and relevance of the education it provides. To this end it cooperates with international and national educational institutions. In addition, the University has set itself the aim of increasing the number of students that have completed a part of their studies at a foreign university in order to become acquainted with different teaching content there, to improve linguistic skills and to develop a point of view going beyond the borders of Austria.

3. Increasing quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation. The University of Vienna has amongst other things set itself the aim of increasing the quality of education through greater mobility particularly in the Masters and Doctorate/Ph.D sectors. Participation in quality-focused degree programmes conducted jointly by a number of universities is also expected to increase the attractiveness of the University of Vienna for top-class students from the EU and third countries.

