

University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)

Erasmus+ Policy Statement 2021–2027

The University of the Basque Country, as the only public university in the Basque Country, is firmly committed to offering a high-quality, inclusive, modern education which contributes to all levels of society and to achieve this, reinforcing internalisation through participation in the 2021–2027 Erasmus Programme is pivotal. Internalisation, as described in our Institution's Internalisation Plan, goes beyond increasing the number of student and staff mobility. Indeed, the University of the Basque Country sees internalisation seeping through all its statements with a view to

- i. consolidating alliances with international partners such as the Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euro region, our Latin American Network and non-European partners such as the United States, Canada and Asia, and work together across borders with other stakeholders in order to achieve common objectives in the field of education and training,
- ii. implementing further measures of inclusiveness in order to make internationalisation accessible for all students and staff at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels,
- iii. promoting the generation, attraction and consolidation of talent through mobility programmes, focusing on research and hiring research staff in training and providing an increasingly international curricula, such as undergraduate and postgraduate courses taught in a third language, international double degrees with strategic international partners,
- iv. adapting and modernising our internationalisation management tools to keep up with digital advancements, promoting automatic full recognition of qualifications and contributing to an environmentally friendlier world by the implementation of the European Student Card Initiative,
- v. offering the possibility to learn in a third language, besides the official Basque and Spanish languages, and promoting the acquisition not only of technical knowledge but also intercultural knowledge and digital skills that will enable students to adapt to the labour market.

Student demographics are changing and non-traditional students are becoming the new norm. As a result, there are new expectations for seamless higher education and life-long learning experiences that fit different lifestyles, individual circumstances and preferences. One-size-fits-all in education is giving way to learning paths which are less defined by traditional educational structures. Mobility is pivotal to adapt our Institution to the future of work, group work, diversity management and to promote learning that is cross-disciplinary, personalised and focused on human skills. In this respect, trans-disciplinary approaches and innovative international collaborative pedagogies, which could be delivered part-time, online or through blended and virtual mobility are at the heart of our institution's objectives.

Participation in the 2021–2027 Erasmus+ Programme is crucial for keeping up the modernisation of the University of the Basque Country. It will afford us the flexibility to adapt our Institution to the changes brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution and prepare our students for the emergent gig economy. By keeping pace with new technologies as a way to re-skill and up-skill our students at present, they will become the driving force to create a stronger Europe in the future, as envisaged by the European Commission for 2025 and outlined in the draft of the Ministerial Communiqué of the Bologna Process (Rome 2020).

Boosting international mobility is pivotal for our institution to continue its path towards building a more inclusive higher education system. Every student, regardless of their socio-economic and personal circumstances, will be able to access and enjoy high-quality education, characterised by the implementation of more active and flexible teaching-learning methodologies, inter- and trans-disciplinary programmes and work-based learning experiences leading towards a live-long learning educational approach. Internationalisation will consolidate additional exchange experiences, where physical mobilities co-exist with virtual and blended types of mobilities.

Participating in the 2021–2027 Erasmus+ Programme will move us forward on the digitalisation path of our Institution at all levels, starting with the implementation of the European Student Card, which includes the adoption of the Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) ecosystem, aiming towards the implementation of automatic mutual recognition of diplomas and the single European eID scheme.

Consolidating our internationalisation process will allow us to keep up with the progress made towards making our society multilingual, where many of our students and staff, who are already Basque and Spanish bilinguals, can strengthen their additional languages skills by participating in international mobility programmes. Active participation in international exchange programmes will strengthen our citizen's European identity, encourage more active engagement with society in general and increase awareness towards common problems, such as environmental issues, for which we will be able to collaborate to find the most adequate solutions.