

## Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-2027

# ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

### INSTITUTIONAL INTERNATIONALISATION AND MODERNISATION STRATEGY

The University represents the place par excellence for the acquisition of skills and abilities that allow access to better jobs, helping to overcome the employment crisis and making full participation in society a reality. In this perspective, international mobility and collaboration represent the added value to the quality of the learning and training experience of the participants and to the teaching offer of the universities, thus making Europe, with its excellence, a more attractive place to live, study and work as well as a highly competitive continent.

For this reason, in line with the objectives defined by the European Commission for the funding period 2021/27, Università degli Studi di Perugia confirms internationalisation, integrated with modernisation processes, as the core of its institutional strategy in order to guarantee quality and inclusive learning.

By participating in Erasmus+, our University intends to confirm its commitment to offering excellent teaching in order to equip its students with high-level skills, thus guaranteeing its graduates excellent chances on the labour market. In order to achieve this objective, it is essential that Universities continue a renewal process so that education and training can satisfy the needs of a society which is becoming increasingly digital and respond to the demands of the new economy and of a constantly evolving labour market that requires key competences, such as digital, entrepreneurial, social and civic ones.

For this reason, the modernisation process requires the University to increase the foreseen investments in the pedagogical training of teaching staff. Strengthening digital teaching skills will also improve the quality of the teaching offered while teachers will also acquire the necessary tools that allow them to meet the different expectations and needs of students coming from diverse backgrounds.

The University promotes equality, recognition and appreciation of differences, therefore the same opportunities, in study and work, will be offered to all without any discrimination and in accordance with the principles of transparency. In order to make quality training accessible to all in a fair and equitable manner, and to make it even more inclusive, the University will make further efforts in overcoming any kind of obstacle: disability, health problems, learning difficulties, cultural differences, economic, social or geographical obstacles.

In line with ecological and environmental policies, the modernisation process will include digitalisation, aimed at simplifying administrative practices, for example by joining the European Student Card Initiative for the management of student mobility. It will also involve the strengthening and creation of new links between universities, enterprises and

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organizations, both national and international, that can act as a bridge between higher education and the labour market.

In this perspective, the University will increase the actions aimed at encouraging quality mobility to ensure that an experience abroad is not the exception but is normally included in the educational path of each learner. In this way, acting in an international context, different from the one in which one usually operates, will not only encourage the acquisition of specific knowledge and language skills, but will also grant learners the access to innovative methodologies.

Greater efforts must be made to ensure that full recognition of qualifications and of study and training periods carried out abroad, in a reciprocal way, becomes a simplified practice, through constant collaboration between the institutions involved, which is based on the quality and complementarity of the programs offered. The exchange of good practices, as well as the use of shared tools that guarantee the cross-border validation of the results achieved will also contribute to full recognition.

By signing the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-27 and participating in Erasmus, the University intends to contribute to the creation of the European Education Area, allowing the consolidation and strengthening of the European identity by enhancing its cultural heritage and, at the same time, preserving its diversity and peculiarities.

This objective can be achieved by making mobility a real opportunity for everyone, by promoting language learning so that people will be able to speak two other languages in addition to their native tongue, and by establishing international collaborations acting across borders, so as to create a network of European universities enabled to compete worldwide.

### INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME ACTIONS

The University intends to take advantage of all the possibilities offered under the Erasmus Programme, by participating in the various Actions in support of mobility, cooperation and political dialogue.

In particular, within **Key Action 1 – Learning Mobility**, the University undertakes to sign inter-institutional agreements with European and non-European partners regulating mobility exchanges, firstly by confirming and renewing for the funding period 2021-27 the most profitable collaborations established during Erasmus+ 2014-20. The already existing network will be enhanced with new agreements with institutions identified on the basis of thematic and geographical priorities and according to the criteria of quality and complementarity of the programs offered, with the aim of integrating mobility in a systemic way in the training path of both partners.

The mobility activities involve students, teaching and non-teaching staff. Students taking part in the mobility will be able to carry out both study and traineeship activities and, specifically, they will be entitled to attend courses and sit for exams, carry out research aimed at their degree thesis or during post-graduate university courses. They can also

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carry out internships as part of the study path (if carried out before the qualification is obtained), or internships preparing them to enter into the labour market (if carried out after the qualification is obtained). The credits acquired during the mobility period abroad, also in the case of blended mobility, will be recognised without the need for the student to bear any additional work load or tests, and will be certified by means of the Transcript of Records on the basis of the Learning Agreement previously agreed.

The international mobility activities of teaching staff (for teaching and training purposes) and of administrative staff (for training purposes) carried out at the host institution will be officially certified and will substitute those activities normally carried out at the home institution. They will count for career progression, participation in national competitions or qualifications, in compliance with current legislation.

In the context of Key Action 1, the University intends to increase the number of participants in the mobility activities by disseminating and promoting the opportunities offered by the Programme with the aim of including categories poorly represented and ensuring that mobility represents not an exception but an integral part of the training path of both students and staff. Thus, the University will be able to achieve the strategic objective of the Programme, according to which mobility within higher education becomes the norm.

At the same time, as mobility becomes a standard, an increasing number of people will be able to access this kind of experience. This will create a sense of belonging to the international community, strengthening the European identity while sharing and respecting differences. Thus the University will contribute to the consolidation of the European Education Area, also facilitating the recognition processes of periods spent abroad, as well as the recognition of qualifications acquired, by using the tools developed and made available within the *European Student Card Initiative*.

Furthermore, spending a period abroad for study, internship, training or teaching purposes, represents a unique opportunity to acquire key competences such as digital and linguistic skills, to improve on a professional level and to promote the exchange of experiences and methodologies used. Mobility will also contribute to achieve the objective set by the Commission that targets a good knowledge of two languages, in addition to one's native tongue. Mobility participants will improve their professionalism and, consequently, their employability, with a positive impact also on the institutions involved which, in the case of staff mobility, will gain in terms of quality of both educational offer and administrative services.

At European and non-European level, **Cooperation between organisations and institutions** for the exchange of good practices, promotion of excellence, support for innovation (**Key Action 2**), will allow the University to pursue strategic priorities such as acquisition of key competences, full recognition of qualifications, overcoming geographical borders, a greater freedom of movement.

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To this end, in addition to the inter-institutional agreements established with European and non-European higher education institutions, the University has partnered with local authorities (Umbria Region, Perugia Province, Perugia Municipality, Assisi Municipality, National Association of the Italian Municipalities of Perugia), with national institutions and government authorities in charge of the educational sector (Ministry of Education, Ministry of University and Research, Regional School Office for Umbria, Territorial School Office of Perugia, local schools ), with public and private institutions (banks, foundations), with trade associations (Chambers of Commerce, Confindustria, Association of Industrialists) and with companies, both local and international, as well as profitable relationships with policy advisors (CRUI - Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities) and with organisations and associations operating in the field of humanitarian, welcoming or voluntary initiatives (Erasmus Student Network, garagErasmus, University Corridors, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees).

This existing network will be further developed and enriched thanks to synergies with new partners with the aim of developing cooperation projects whose first purpose is to encourage the circulation, both physical and virtual, of students, teachers, researchers and administrative staff. Such network will also support and strengthen the European identity and contribute to the internationalisation of the institutions involved, with an impact on the quality of the educational offer. Through sharing their excellence within complementary training courses and joint qualifications, this collaboration will also provide opportunities for mobility participants to combine their studies in different institutions through a systematic and structured mobility, thus promoting multilingual learning.

With this in mind, the Institution will set up a stable and lasting alliance between European universities and some of the main universities in different world regions, many of which are already long term partners of Università degli Studi di Perugia and have already shown their interest in collaborating within the "European Universities" initiative which will allow interconnection also with sectors such as research, innovation and the fourth mission.

Furthermore, the harmonisation and recognition of qualifications in higher education between different countries, made possible thanks to these collaborations, will support the overcoming of administrative and bureaucratic obstacles, allowing Universities to focus on excellence.

The involvement of businesses in the network of university partners will allow the creation and dissemination of innovative practices as well as the acquisition of specific sectoral skills by those involved in the project activities, also that target a common front in finding available economic resources on the private, as well as public, market internationally.

With regards to **Key Action 3 (Support for policy development and cooperation)**, the University will adopt and disseminate the transparency systems promoted by the European Union (for example the Union's single framework for transparency of qualifications and skills; the European credit accumulation and transfer system; the

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European credit system for vocational education and training), with a view to improving quality and inclusion within the Programme, including through participation in international projects and, more generally, within education and training.

The network of local, national and international collaborations, be they universities, governments or enterprises, will support political dialogue by involving key stakeholders in the educational and training sector in order to raise awareness and disseminate the priorities of European policies, as well as the results of the Programme activities.

### **ENVISAGED IMPACT OF THE PARTICIPATION IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME ON THE INSTITUTION**

In line with the objectives set by the Community strategy, which envisages the creation of a European Education Area as a primary goal, participation in the Erasmus Programme allows the University to carry out its internationalisation and modernisation policy through mobility students and staff, collaboration in projects of international scope and support for political dialogue.

Among the specific objectives of the University there is, therefore, the harmonisation of higher education systems to encourage the overcoming of obstacles to the recognition of qualifications so that mobility becomes not only an accessible experience for all but represents an integral part of the educational path of each learner, ensuring excellent training and contributing to language learning.

Spending a mobility period abroad is an opportunity for personal, social and professional growth. The expected impact on mobility participants consists in the improvement of their relational, cultural and linguistic skills, as well as in the refinement of academic skills, and aptitudes in both academic and professional environments. The positive fallout translates, for students, into future employment opportunities, and for staff, in improving their satisfaction with their professional sphere, as well as in possible career advancements.

Cooperation between institutions will furthermore support the exchange of good practices, innovation, the digitalisation of institutions and the dissemination of digital skills which will contribute to the modernisation of programmes and the realisation of quality education, at the basis of personal, social and professional development. Excellence in education, made accessible to all, leads to the creation of highly qualified professionals with crucial skills who will be able to meet the new demands of the labour market, promoting economic growth, overcoming social inequalities and fostering greater social inclusion and cohesion.

Internationalisation constitutes a decisive turning point for the future of the University, and for the entire local and national territory whose context, rich in artistic, cultural and landscape traditions, when embedded in a European dimension, can be enhanced to the best.

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These perspectives converge in the University's ambition to contribute to the creation of a globally recognised European university reality in which it is possible to collaborate by crossing the respective borders and to work with the common aim of protecting the cultural heritage of the individual countries, embracing the differences that distinguish them and, at the same time, promoting Europe's sense of identity.

UNIPG ERASMUS+ TIMELINE 2021-27	
INDICATORS	OBJECTIVES
NUMBER OF MOBILITY ACTIVITIES BENEFICIARIES	Increase in the number of beneficiaries of Programme mobility activities by at least 5% during the first year of the programming period (2021-22) compared to the share relating to the previous academic year and progressive increase in the following years, up to an increase of at least 20% (compared to the number of beneficiaries of the initial mobility) at the end of the seven-year period.
NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE CALLS ISSUED BY THE EU COMMISSION WITHIN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME	<p>The University will submit the application under Key Action 1, Mobility of students and staff, with European and non-European partners in response to each annual Call issued by the European Commission in the period 2021-27.</p> <p>The University will submit an application under Key Action 2, Cooperation between organizations and institutes, for the "Partnerships for Excellence" initiative, in response to the first useful Call of the first year of the new programming period.</p> <p>The University will present at least one application under Key Action 2, Cooperation between organizations and institutions, for the "Partnerships for cooperation and exchange of practices" initiative (as coordinator or partner) for each thematic / disciplinary area of the University in response to each annual Call issued by the European Commission in the period 2021-27.</p> <p>The University will present at least one application under Key Action 3, Support for policy development and cooperation, in collaboration with local, national and international partners aimed at spreading transparency systems and strengthening inclusion policies in response to the Calls issued by the European Commission within the first two years of programming for the period 2021-27.</p>