



Mugla University

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

Overall Erasmus co-operation strategy

Mugla University has been in pursuit of quality education and research to contribute to the socio-cultural, scientific, and technological development by internationalization. MU. has strong policies to support involvement in international, especially European programmes.

M.U. seeks to contribute to the influence of academic world in Europe to achieve the Lisbon goal of making the EU the most competitive knowledge-based economy, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs, and greater social cohesion. M.U. has become a member of European University Association as of January 2007, which will increase the international recognition and give opportunity to get help with subjects of quality assurance and full implementation of Bologna Process. M.U. believes that EU Education and Research Programmes, Bologna Process, and European Credit Transfer System are vitally important and will be indispensable in the near future for a prosperous and competitive Europe. With this priority in mind, M.U. will work towards increasing the prospects of European partnership. Currently, M.U. has many bilateral agreements and active cooperation in mobility activities with European HEIs. Further increasing the number of bilateral agreements and exchanges remain as the prime aim. Every department has an ECTS/Erasmus coordinator who provides academic and practical advice to exchange students and closely works with the International Relations Office. Students and staff of M.U. have also benefited from projects within the Leonardo da Vinci Programme. Some academic staff from M.U. has been selected as 'independent external expert' for evaluating Leonardo projects.

This brief history is believed to give an indication on how much motivated M.U. is to be a part of EU Education Community.

Within the context of LLP program, M.U. will keep focusing on these priorities:

- Promoting Comenius Assistantship for prospective teachers studying in various departments of education,
- further fostering active participation in Erasmus student and staff exchange which has considerably increased in number and quality in only three years since the award of first EUC,
- introducing and promoting participation into Erasmus student placement and staff training,
- coordinating and partnering IP projects,

- increasing number and quality of LdV projects with a special focus on quality of VET, teacher training, ECVET, and E-learning,
- promoting participation also into Grundtvig Programme, Transversal programmes and Jean Monnet.

Mugla University has strong policies to ensure that activities within the University and relations with those outside are conducted in ways that are sensitive to the ethnic, religious and social backgrounds and genders of students and the needs of those with disabilities.

This EPS has been prepared by the decision makers of the University. It will be available in the University web site and bulletin boards and also made public by a press conference.

Quality of academic mobility activities

- The University will actively continue to promote the implementation of the ECTS to improve the transparency and the international recognition of the courses and modules offered and support the improvements for ECVET.
- The University will keep online information packages up to date for prospective students to be aware of the curriculum of their study.
- The University will ensure high quality in student and staff mobility by educating its own students about the international study options that are on offer. This will include the publication of informative literature, presentations in each department and events organized in collaboration with students and staff who have benefited from the international exchange programmes.
- Mentors and/or host students will be appointed to incoming students to help them integrate into the general education system of the University.
- The University will continue to support incoming students for accommodation related issues and to provide residence in the guesthouse until students select their permanent residence from among many options offered.
- The School of Foreign Languages will help outgoing students gain intercultural communication skills and also introduce Turkish Language and Culture to incoming international students.
- The International Office staff will provide their contacts to incoming and outgoing students and staff in order to be an instant help when faced with problems.
- The University will keep offering free accommodation to incoming teaching staff for short periods.
- The University will continue efforts to create an atmosphere of research to promote a high quality learning environment for all its students. The library provides access to many e-journal databases such as EBSCO, OCLC, Science Direct, Proquest among many others.
- The University will continue to support the development of an integrated campus life with staff members that are trained to be culturally aware.

Quality of student placement activities

As a new action under Erasmus programme, student placement receives high importance in the University agenda since Mugla University has a significant number of

VET students in both short cycle and first cycle degree programmes. Student placement action will provide great opportunities for those willing to add a European dimension to their qualifications. With the experience from former LDV placement projects, the University will publicize this new action and actively participate in activities as of 2007.

- The University will support the participation of staff in international cooperation by emphasizing the recruitment of members who are willing to contribute and have a proven track of involvement in international academic activities.
- The University will provide additional incentives to promote student placement. The experiences of both academic staff and students will be used by the International Office in organizing events that further promote student and staff mobility.
- There will be efforts to modify the curricula as well as educational instruments. These efforts will be furthered through the University sources and other means of funds.
- The developments in ECVET will be followed and necessary improvements will be made to ensure high quality student placement.
- Enterprises from all over Europe will be contacted in order to explore the possibilities of forming the basis for quality placements.
- Staff will also attend and/or run info sessions about the new details of LLP, particularly in relation to student placement and staff training.
- Mentoring and supervision of placement students will be carried out with special care.
- Linguistic help and support will be given before and/or during the placement activities by utilizing best available technology.
- A serious attention will be given to arrangement of work-programme and placement agreements. All necessary practical arrangements and recognition will be agreed and signed before placement.

** As stated in the application for Extended Erasmus University Charter. Mugla University has been awarded the Extended EUC by the European Commission for Erasmus activities between 2007/2008-2013/2014.*