

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission. ☒

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)

Original language [EN]

The Ionian University (I.U.), is a small sized but research-intensive institution and is pro-actively engaged in a wide range of EU-funded activities. I.U. is committed to promoting the European dimension of its programs and continuing to ensure that students and staff have full and equal access to European mobility opportunities. The applied criteria are in compliance with the principle of transparency and equal treatment.

The University aims to raise the Institution's international profile through partnerships, to internationalize the curriculum of the student and staff body and to expand the number of programs in the English language offering an international experience. I.U. issues graduating students with the Diploma Supplement.

The University's core strategic aim is to offer qualitative services at every stage of the Erasmus mobility scheme. I.U. is offering in English a comprehensive ECTS Guide for incoming students covering application, accommodation, fees and finance, travel, pre-departure information and induction/orientation.

The I.U.'s Internationalization Strategy aims to promote longer-term and sustainable networks and partnerships with universities and other organizations in research, teaching and enterprise for mutual benefit. The partnership criteria for choosing institutional mobility partners comprise of: the academic quality of the partner institutions; the teaching and research fields of our departments and research institutes and laboratories; the possible interdisciplinary research approaches, which can enhance the I.U.'s research output contributing to the national and regional economic development.

Geographically I.U.'s partnerships are primarily focused on E.U. member countries. Due to traditional and historic ties the University plans to extend its partnership and cooperation strategy and cooperation perspectives to non-E.U. countries. This global focus of I.U. aims to certain regions and to geographical lots including Albania, Russian Federation, China, Japan, Arab countries.

Complying with objectives of the University's strategy the Erasmus scheme is promoted actively through the International Office and each participating Academic Unit. Current students and staff are targeted through a variety of events and meetings throughout the academic year, involving International Relations Officer, Erasmus Co-ordinators, returning students. The International Office maintains a dedicated website <http://sites.ionio.gr/international/gr/erasmus/> including the Erasmus Policy Statement.

The target groups of I.U.'s international strategy include the following types of individual mobility: Undergraduate-mobility, Masters-mobility, Doctorates-mobility, Post-doctorates-mobility, teaching staff-mobility, administration staff-mobility. These types of mobility are targeted depending on the specific geographical lot concerned.

The I.U. is already awarding master level joint degrees (co-tutelle) in the framework of a joint postgraduate programme with the French University of Caen which has expired last year.

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)

Original language [EN]

For the time being our Institution does not participate in any I.C.P.

We are awaiting further details about the funding of the "Erasmus for All" Programme and, once participating to these programmes, our Institution intends to support all concerning activities and highlight them accordingly.

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)

Original language [EN]

The I.U. is committed to quality in Erasmus mobility: by increasing the number and quality of students, teaching staff and administration staff mobility; by enhancing disadvantaged people participation; by improving the administration's quality; by encouraging mobility to new destinations; by applying ECTS rules to new study programs; by ensuring the sustainability of the quality and consistency in all aspects of Erasmus actions supporting them adequately. Ensuring the quality of academic mobility every participating Academic Unit has an Erasmus Co-ordinator to support incoming and outgoing students and staff with their exchange activities. All activities are monitored and will be reviewed annually. The University has produced its own guidelines for student exchanges. Academic Units may undertake monitoring visits to partner institutions to assess the Erasmus exchange activity. Comprehensive online information about the Erasmus scheme is available for incoming and outgoing students.

Outgoing students are fully briefed on academic requirements, practicalities and welfare by their personal tutor, their Erasmus Co-ordinator, the Exchange and Mobility Officer and a Safety Officer. All outgoing students complete a risk assessment prior to their exchange. They are advised about appropriate course options and assessment.

Incoming students receive details about specific course options and credit values (ECTS) from the Academic Unit concerned. Erasmus students are included in the University's welcome events at the start of each semester. An induction is arranged within each Academic Unit. The newly established Accommodation Office will provide assistance in finding suitable accommodation in halls of residence or in the city of Corfu. Free Greek and English language classes are available. One Student Advisor is to be appointed and will be available to support students with academic and welfare issues. The Office of International Relations is being staffed with additional multilingual advisors.

Staff is encouraged to discuss Erasmus mobility as part of annual staff appraisal and promotion processes. The Office for International Relations aims to maximize the number of teaching exchanges, which can be funded each year.

In order to ensure high quality in student placements, I.U. has a broad range of experience in organising work placements, which it intends to apply to the development of Erasmus work placements. The aim is to provide a valuable international experience for students which will be recognised as part of their studies and will enhance their employability after graduation. I.U. will make every effort to integrate training programs with the educational process, include them in the credit system and evaluate them. In addition, we intend to improve and fully apply the e-governement methodology and apply for E.U. new programmes and private funding.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)