

Erasmus Policy Statement

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy of. 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 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution is involved in the development of Double/Multiple/Joint Degrees.

As can be seen in the development plan of the University of Hildesheim, the following international strategy has been laid down, including not only the European Union but also worldwide cooperation.

As a moderately-sized university with a clear profile, Hildesheim offers the possibilities of over 180 international cooperation agreements with partner universities in more than 40 countries to its 6,000 students (EU and worldwide). The main emphasis lies on the cooperation agreements with approx. 150 ERASMUS partner universities in 28 countries.

The University of Hildesheim has received several awards for the management and fulfillment of these agreements in recent years:

- in Germany: the E-Quality Label 2006 and 2011
- from the EU: the distinction "Erasmus Success Story" in 2010 as the sole German university.

In comparison to the 2007 EUC-listed figure of 95 ERASMUS university cooperation agreements, this shows an increase of over 50 %. Over many years, the University of Hildesheim has had a top position in the federal ranking with approx. 30% ERASMUS outgoing students, for whom over 400 exchange places in Europe are available.

The development plan of the University of Hildesheim for the period up to 2020 focuses on the cooperation agreements with ca. 150 ERASMUS partner universities in 28 countries.

Above and beyond the EU, the University of Hildesheim cooperates worldwide with universities, in particular, in Asian countries (China, South Korea, India, Japan) and in Central and South America (Mexico, Argentina, Brazil), taking into consideration that:

a) the comparability of student courses, among other factors, plays a very important role in choosing partner universities, including the possibilities of recognition of course work; the languages of the courses, resp. the needs or interest of students and lecturers with regard to certain countries, regions or individual universities; quality and reputation of the partner university; the nomination of mutual, reliable subject coordinators; the university service offers and support for students and lecturers at the partner university.

Quality evaluation of existing ERASMUS cooperation agreements is carried out by a careful study of the written reports of students, staff and lecturers who visited one of the ERASMUS universities, but also through the feedback of the corresponding subject coordinators, not forgetting the recognition processes of student course work and due consideration of an effective and reciprocal exchange;

b) up till the present, regarding geographical areas, the University of Hildesheim above all focussed on Spain, France and Turkey. To cover the need for cooperation agreements which include courses in English the university is consistently extending the number of its

cooperation agreements in Scandinavia. As stated above, the university has university cooperation agreements with altogether 44 countries worldwide

c) regarding aims and the target groups, the university concentrates on terms or stays abroad for Bachelor students (1st study cycle). The exchange of Master students (2nd study cycle) is also possible within certain limits; it is, however, not made easy by the short duration of the Master courses. Nevertheless, the university will be attempting, in consultation with the partner universities, subject coordinators and institutional coordinators concerned, to increase the outgoings quota and on principle intensify the admittance and supervision of doctoral candidates from abroad (suitable DAAD financial support for doctoral students can, for the moment, be successfully procured up till 2015).

The mobility of the lecturers and other staff will be further supported as at present; on principle, this support is open to (after consultation with the university CEOs) all members of the university (exchange of approx.30 people per annum). The University of Hildesheim has consistently supported colleagues from the library, controlling, finance, the student advisory service, the equality of opportunity support centre, the press and information office, and the International Office since the introduction of this measure, in order to especially implement the European dimension in these areas, too.

Colleagues and administrative staff from abroad are, for example, welcome to visit us in the "International Weeks" which the university organizes on a bi-annual basis. In addition, network meetings, for instance the KASTALIA Network for European Teacher Education and Training with 15 European university partners, will continue to take place annually with the participation of subject coordinators and the International Office.

Further, the University of Hildesheim offers three Double-Degree programmes in cooperation with universities in Novgorod/Russia, Marseille/France and Daejeon/South Korea, which now partly run at the level of the Master's degree. There is a constant reappraisal of further first class Dual Master's degrees being introduced in other study courses.

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.

As a matter of principle, the University of Hildesheim will continue to focus on the mobility of students and staff through its participation in the programme, because the many parties concerned can be successfully reached and the existing, broad cooperation network optimally used. The new instruments in the programme offer opportunities to further extend our cooperation through projects. For instance, strategic partnerships to work together with key organizations can be used by the University of Hildesheim to intensify existing cooperation, especially in IT (i.e. projects supported by the 7th EU Research Framework Programme like ITalk2Learn, Reduction und Indenica, in which, beside universities, research institutions and companies are involved), and thus – as provided for in the modernization agenda – support the intersectorial cooperation with other educational sectors.

International cooperation and capacity extension projects are above all interesting for the University of Hildesheim in order to put the cooperation with Argentina, Mexico and India on a new footing.

The application for and implementation of such projects has usually been in the hands of individual institutes, who are thus able to extend their focus internationally. They are supported in all phases of the application and implementation by the International Office through advice, contacts to other project leaders within the University of Hildesheim or by contacts at partner universities, but also by the supervision of students incoming to the

University of Hildesheim within the framework of the project. Project applications by staff members are, as a rule, sent in advance to the International Office, which generally makes further recommendations. Subsequently, the applications are checked by the university CEOs, the legal department and the budget department who also make sure that the projects fit in with the internationalization strategy of the University of Hildesheim, as stated in the development plan for 2020.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the five priorities of the modernization agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve.

The University of Hildesheim expects a further extension of the reservoir of participants in mobility measures from its participation in the above-mentioned action tracks within the programme. This will contribute to even more students profiting from the opportunities which a stay abroad means at this level of education. The quality of education is increased by international cooperation, because students gain unique insight into, and experience and knowledge of universities and companies in other countries. They are not only able to extend their knowledge of the language and increase their intercultural competence, but are also in a position to further develop their personality.

This is of increasing importance to students of education, who will be mostly teaching in school classes with many migrant children, especially from Turkey. Cooperation with Turkish universities and schools will retain its special focus at the University of Hildesheim. For over two decades the University of Hildesheim and its partner universities have been working in thematic networks, for example, in European Teacher Education and Training (KASTALIA) and in Translation Science (SNTT), where, in addition to implementing the mobility programme, research into Teacher Education in Europe and into Translation Science are emphasized.

One special European focus of the University of Hildesheim comprises the European Talks (the History Institute) in which renowned political and cultural figures in Europe have participated (e.g. Jean Claude Juncker etc.). An international conference ("Europe, Germany and Turkey") took place in May 2012 with participants from both countries in cooperation with the renowned Ege University in Izmir and in 2014 there will be a "follow up" in Izmir. This network will also profit from the new instruments (strategic partnerships or possibly also from the international cooperation and capacity extension projects), in order to intensify the cooperation between the different institutions and key organizations.

A further department of the University of Hildesheim, which could profit from the new programme measures and enhance the effect of the so-called "science triangle", is Information Science, which has already carried out projects in the past in cooperation with industry and commerce. The Department of Environmental Science also displays great potential in this area.

The ERASMUS management of the University of Hildesheim has been given awards several times by the DAAD (the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) and by the European Commission. Its work will be carried on in the extended form of the new programme generation in the proven cooperation with subject coordinators and faculties by the International Office. The additional financial opportunities will also be used to extend the reservoir of participants for mobility measures.