

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

As a higher education and research institution the vision of Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa (IUC) is to be a pioneer of science in the light of history. To become one of the world's leading universities, internationalization has been put in the focus of its development strategy. The main aim is to achieve international excellence in education and in research.

In accordance to this aim key issues are: a) to increase the number of international students, b) to increase the number of student and staff mobility, c) to increase the number of bilateral agreements and d) to increase the number of international projects and cooperations. IUC with his faculties, vocational schools and institutions is a member of many international associations and academic and research networks.

Most of the cooperations are based on personal contacts, but also to be established in Istanbul, the important heritage of the university in history and tradition, and to act as a bridge between east and west is a key attraction for international partners.

The selection of university partners takes place on the basis of various criteria, for example:

- special consistency of content
- existing teaching and research contacts of university lecturers
- attractiveness as a destination for study abroad
- outstanding standing / ranking of the university in the state

In addition to numerous partnerships with European HEI's and HEI's in different parts of the world IUC aims to increase its visibility in North/South America, Canada, East and South Asia. Establishing new agreements and cooperations with the well known HEI's in these areas is one of the main goals of internationalisation. IUC will also strengthen his collaboration with the Balkan countries and universities. One aim is also to increase the number of institutional collaborations with research centers and research networks.

IUC is expanding a network of strategic partnerships with a number of international university partners. With these facilities, cooperation is characterized by a series of joint projects and programmes in different areas.

Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa would also like to extend its mobility network with Mevlana Exchange Programme launched by the Turkish Higher Education Council.

For the future the university will increase the number of joint degree programmes by entering into new partnerships.

IUC has a long and distinguished record in European activities. The faculties and vocational schools of IUC have been an active participant in Erasmus student and staff exchanges since 2004-2005. Some of them participate in the programme since academic year 2003-2004 as part of the pilot project. Some faculties of the university are involved in Erasmus+, Leonardo da Vinci, FP6, FP7 and H2020 programmes.

One of the most important objective for IUC is to raise quality to exchange programmes. The aim is to increase the exchange numbers and to improve the quality of exchange. One of the indicators for quality is the recognition of mobility achievements. In this regard the university targets fair recognition.

The primary target group of mobility activities are the students, who participate in both study and traineeship programmes in significant numbers. Either first-cycle as well as second and third cycle students should be offered a wide range of mobility services. For most of the students its a chance to get abroad for the first time and to get to know different cultures and different learning habits. Students get a chance to test both their academic performance and their social skills in competitive international environments.

The university has mandatory internship programmes in some faculties and vocational schools. In this case the practical experience in companies abroad is of great value. As a demand university aims to increase also the number of students for traineeship mobility programme.

The interest of academic and non academic staff in the participation in mobility programmes increases from year to year. At this point IUC sees a great potential for promoting cross-border scientific exchange, international research projects and the intercultural qualification of his own university staff. It is expected that the demand rises.

IUC fully functions with the Bologna Process, designing its educational programmes and procedures in accordance with it. A number of the Turkish bachelor programmes have all been covered with 30% of the courses in English. ECTS has been enacted in all degree programmes offered by the university equivalent with the standard internal credit accumulation system and the infrastructure is created to grant Diploma Supplement to the graduates. IUC continues to promote and implement the principles of ECTS in all its Erasmus student exchanges. The University operates a 60 credit year system (30 ECTS credits per semester) for outgoing students. IUC is committed to providing the highest quality of education for its own and international students. The syllabus of the University and standards of the university's awards are credited by the quality assurance and enhancement mechanisms which operate within the university's quality policies.

II.

Projects - often with both teaching and research relevance - play a crucial role. IUC has a European Union and International Projects Office for organizing all Erasmus and other EU projects and other international projects like H2020. They coordinate the dissemination of partner search and call for proposals. Also the scientific research projects unit of IUC for national and international scientific research programmes has a central role in organizing projects. Both units support teaching staff to write and manage projects as well as the planning of the project budget. Various bi- or multilateral international project cooperations provide a framework for intensive personal contacts and exchange activities of the staff. An essential measure is to make the projects and cooperations visible as strategic partnerships. To increase the number of projects, training seminars on preparing projects are regularly organised.

Projects of IUC are covering many high-priority strategic technology-research areas such as experimental medicine, biotechnology, ecosystems and the environment, biochemistry and material science, renewable energy, and third-generation communication nevertheless the main research fields which will have priority can be listed as bellow: medical research (biotechnology, bio-enformatics, neurosciences etc); developing electronical, hybrid and hydrogen

cars; transport technologies; alternative sources of energy; software development; university-industry collaborative research projects etc.

The Technology Transfer Office aims at combining university and industry under a joint framework.

III

Considered under the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda the participation of Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa can be described as follows.

The expansion of opportunities for many to accumulate foreign experience correspond to a major guiding principle of the university

This objective is also in line with the plan of IUC to increase international mobility and internationalization at the university, both in the field of sending abroad and in developing new international offers and promoting foreign students on campus.

IUC believes that international exchange is an essential part of a high qualitative and attractive education, which is becoming increasingly important in the globalized world. Students should acquire the necessary skills and an intercultural perspective to become a graduate in the globalized world.

In the spirit of the modernization measures of the European Commission, the university plans to promote the international exchange; at the same time, it is important to keep an eye on the interests of the economy, the global trends in the education system and practice-oriented research.

With the Technology Transfer Office and the Technopark, the IUC aims to become one of the leading universities of technology worldwide, offering outstanding opportunities for cooperation between research, industry, and academia.