

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027

POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Poznan University of Medical Sciences has participated in the Erasmus Programme for as long as 20 years, ever since the year 2000. This enabled PUMS, across the many years, to develop a more effective strategy for modernisation and internationalisation, as well as continue to expand its mission of providing highest quality learning and innovative teaching experience, effectively contributing to building a European Education Area. By tightening existing bilateral cooperation with partnering Universities, yet attracting new institutions at the same time, PUMS positioned itself among excellent medical higher education entities, becoming an easily recognised and desired academic platform for international students. The prospects for the forthcoming years include raising the number of student and staff mobility, developing cooperation with existing and future partners, as well as rising qualifications of the academic staff members by encouraging their participation in international summer schools, traineeships promoting integration of modern technologies, trans-sectoral transfer of innovation and knowledge, conducting innovative interdisciplinary projects.

Further participation in the Erasmus Programme enables PUMS to pursue its top priority: an on-going endeavour to modernise the University through:

- Raising the quality of education and improving applicability of the acquired skills and knowledge to the ever changing needs of the economy by adapting teaching curricula, monitoring career paths of the graduates, applying ICT to enhance teaching, developing personalised learning, distance learning by traditional methods and by e-learning, raising suitability of theses and dissertations for practical application.
- Strengthening ties between higher education, research and business to include research results and innovative solutions to study programmes and commercial services offer. Students' practice abroad, offered to them by the Programme, helps graduates function more successfully in the job market, and enhances their personal development.
- Providing students with opportunities to gain additional skills through study and practice abroad and through a wide range of programmes and courses; improving administrative procedures before departure and return from practice, facilitating recognition of European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) points acquired abroad and linking gained qualifications to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).
- Efficient use of financial resources to raise teaching standards and to adapt education to the needs of the job market, adapting funding mechanisms to the University needs, finding alternative sources of finance including the EU, precise calculation of actual costs of education and research.

There are numerous Erasmus actions PUMS is striving to ultimately put into practice, in order to achieve the objectives of its strategy of remaining an effective agent in the higher education field, deliver results and offer top quality and innovative teaching methods, tightly cooperating with EU actors furthering development of the European Education Area and attract international students and researchers.

Among many, the decision to sign new international agreements with foreign partners made by the University, following a thorough analysis of academic profiles, particularly of the level and quality of study programmes and experience in research is of vital importance. For the collaboration to be beneficial, comparability of university curricula, as well as, students and academic faculty staff selection criteria, based on their skills and language proficiency are considered of particular importance.

Based on our previous experience, we will strive to minimize the disparities in the number of outgoing and incoming students through the broader promotion of our educational offer, which comprises with 5 full programs. We will examine the possibilities of joint degree studies, in particular, in the 2nd level of education.

Considering current preferences of our students and teachers, the main scope of search for new partner universities will cover Europe, the Americas and Asia. The search for partners will be through personal contacts of the University staff members, including administrative staff, academic faculty staff and researchers, as well as through participation in educational fairs, the use of web portals designed to seek project partners, and a series of monitoring visits.

The University has undertaken initial steps to trigger joint doctoral degree scheme. The development of such a scheme lies within the scope of the Erasmus policy in the period stated.

At present, setting up joint inter-university studies, especially in the second-stage education (post-bachelor's degree), are being analysed.

In order to upgrade teaching staff qualifications the following strategies are planned:

- participation in international summer schools,
- the development of joint study curricula with foreign academic partners,
- internships in technology transfer centres of Europe and the United States of America, enabling practical application of knowledge into industry and business,
- implementation of up-to-date teaching methods acquired abroad into the University teaching style.

The mobility of teachers and students within the Programme contributes significantly to modernising studies structure (two-stage studies), to expanding the range of study programmes, and to raising the quality of research.

The main impact is increasing of the level of our University internationalisation through Staff and Student mobility, what is the important target our EPS. So far, PUMS has:

- sent 1125 students to partnering Institutions
- welcomed 691 international students from partnering institutions,
- sent 94 Staff members to carry out their traineeships or teaching mobility ,
- Welcomed 47 International Academics and Administrative Staff members from partnering institutions
- 55 bilateral agreements

Additionally, PUMS has also started a student and teacher exchange with countries outside of the European Union such Georgia, Papua New Guinea USA and Moldova, Ukraine.

All in all, our Erasmus family has reached an impressive number of 1957 individuals since the year 2000. Based on our previous experience and future prospects the mobility targets for the prospective years until 2027 PUMS is striving to achieve would be as follows:

- 500 outgoing students;
- 500 incoming students
- 50 outgoing Staff members to carry out their traineeships or teaching mobility;
- 30 Incoming International Academics and Administrative Staff members from partnering institutions.
- 65 bilateral agreement (10 new ones)

Participation in international mobility and cooperation with different institutions around the world will have an impact on our university as well as the project participants. Among many benefits are the following:

- Enabling students to uptake traineeships and study mobility, in order to encourage them to better their qualifications, and, at the same time, enabling PUMS to be recognised as a well-structured higher education entity, which aims to educate its Staff and Students to the highest level.
- Achievements of participants will be used to further promote mobility, with a special focus on inclusion of participants with fewer opportunities (e.g. physically impaired and those from difficult economic backgrounds).
- Staff mobility enables them to carry out didactic courses and training, in order to strengthen their potential and competences through exchange of good practices, methods and language skills.
- Cooperation with 10 new institutes since 2023 allowing a higher number of Staff and Students to enter mobility.
- Participation in Erasmus Projects in cooperation with partners within higher education, research and business, in order to innovate intellectual work, promote new solutions and ideas.
- Tightening cooperation with current partners, as well as establishing new ones will allow for tighter bond between education, science and innovation, as well as realisation of new projects, strengthening the potential for internationalisation.
- The use of results of everyday experience will enable PUMS to monitor systematic analysis of educational offer and review a new one in order to position PUMS at highest level of national and international education market, allowing to pin point the new areas for future development.
- Preparation and implementation of clear and transparent policies, rules and specific solutions to problems, developing international educational projects (including joint degrees).

PUMS administrative human resources will actively support Staff and Students participating in mobility to organize trips and arrivals, obtaining a visa and accommodation, and also will assist in applying for new projects and their implementation.

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