



Erasmus Charter for Higher Education

Subject: Erasmus Policy Statement

Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) is situated in a vibrant and multicultural city, home to the largest European port, which defines its strongly innovative, entrepreneurial vibe and international dynamic. Over the past decade, the EUR has become increasingly international, hosting more than a hundred nationalities, with around 20% of the student population coming from abroad. This trend can as well be seen in the EUR international research projects, co-publications and its international positioning within the academic community.

European and International cooperation and exchange of students and staff is part of our DNA. Making part of our academic community means "Being an Erasmian", as defined by the EUR Strategy 2024, based on the following principles: Engagement with society, World citizenship, Connecting, Entrepreneurship, Openmindedness.¹

Therefore, EUR participation in Erasmus Programme has from the beginning been a logical and a necessary part of the University's modus vivendi. Since the granting of the current ECHE in 2014 EUR has been active in supporting student mobility within European Education Area and participating in more than 20 Erasmus+ projects (Knowledge Alliance, Jean Monnet, Mobility, Strategic Partnership, Sport). Our ambition for the future is to further disseminate and use the knowledge and expertise gathered in these projects, among other in the framework of the European Universities Alliance (the application submitted earlier this year). The current application for the new ECHE runs parallel with the formulation of the EUR new Internationalisation Strategy and is an important building block for the University's future governance model. The main goals of the Erasmus University Internationalisation Strategy for the coming period are:

- I. To ensure inclusive internationalisation aimed at quality of research and education at EUR
- II. To attract and retain international talent
- III. To optimise EUR external cooperation
- IV. To improve mobility balance at EUR
- V. To enhance professional support

At EUR we expect that participation at the Erasmus Programme would naturally contribute to the achievement of these institutional goals. More specifically, to attain the first Goal, the EUR needs to re-evaluate the character of its education, research, and societal impact to maintain her position in the world of high education. This is already being done by introduction of internationally oriented programmes, the set-up of an international classroom and international strategic partnerships. Attention shall be paid to quality and accessibility of the teaching, in line with EU policy and European initiatives of European Education Area. Additionally, the competition on the world market of high education cannot be overlooked, and it means that, to ensure its share of the market, the EUR have to offer an attractive English-language education of international standard.

To reach the second Goal, the EUR shall work on its employee appeal in order to become more attractive to foreign talent: improving the professional services; providing the training and skills needed to work in an open international environment, including English and Dutch language courses; focusing on the well-being of international students and staff; facilitating the arrival of students, teachers and researchers from EU and the third countries and encouraging their cultural integration.

¹ See <https://www.eur.nl/en/about-eur/strategy-and-policy/profile-priorities>

As for the third Goal, the EUR aims to be recognised as a responsible and reliable partner with a unique profile based on its core disciplines and focused on societal impact. We commit to smart institutional and organisational partnerships, proactive educational and research collaborations and participation in national and municipal knowledge and economic missions. In all the above-mentioned activities the active role and representation of the Schools is of crucial importance.

The EUR is already far on the way towards the fourth Goal, recognising the added value of mobility, international experience, of learning and working abroad. We aim to balance mobility by stimulating outbound student and staff mobility. Such support is provided via Erasmus Programme and internal grants. Specific attention shall be paid to groups of students, such as first-generation students, for whom the mobility benefits are less self-evident. By strategically targeting such groups of students, the outgoing mobility can be increased. Additionally, the EUR will look for solutions for students not taking part in outbound mobility because of low-income or cultural restrictions (e.g. virtual/digital mobility).

Finally, Goal five is to provide state-of-the-art, pro-active and adaptable professional support in the field of internationalisation by consolidating the existing capacities of different professional services. The EUR will keep building up an internal expertise, offering services in the field of internationalisation (security, networks, branding, coordination & support around acquisition of research funding & educational projects).

It is obvious that to achieve the above strategic Goals, EUR' participation in the next Erasmus programme 2021-2027 is vital. The award of Erasmus Charter for Higher Education would allow the EUR to become even more active within the European Education Area, significantly contributing to such initiatives as inclusivity and diversity, life-long learning, digitalisation and sustainable mobility.

The extensive knowledge and expertise in the coordination, management, dissemination and sustainability of Erasmus+ and other EU funded projects will be used by EUR in the future to realise its far-reaching ambitions within the next period of the Erasmus Programme.