

Erasmus Policy Statement

The University of Pardubice considers international cooperation one of the main fields of its development. As a consolidated and financially healthy institution, unified in its internal structure, shared values and traditions, wealthy in the diversity of natural sciences, technology, economic, humanities, social, healthcare and artistic fields, the university intends to further support and develop the inspiring academic environment where academic staff move the limits of human knowledge and transfer their intellectual property to students, enabling them to become highly qualified professionals for successful careers in an open competition of the world labour market and prepare them for a true citizenship, forward-looking and productive life in the globalized world. International cooperation is maintained with over 250 universities and research institutions in 60 countries. Individual University departments participate in international programmes, take part in student and staff exchange programme, and share experience in many projects, organize prestigious international sessions, workshops, conferences and seminars. Around 70 international agreements have been concluded with foreign higher education institutions for international cooperation in the field of education and research, and more than 300 bilateral agreements for the EU Erasmus Lifelong Learning educational exchange programme. Besides these partnership agreements and relations, there are a number of further projects with workplaces abroad, resulting every year in many further publications, joint project works and staff exchanges.

EU strategy:

Most of our European bilateral agreements were signed on the basis of personal contacts of our academics at foreign universities. Therefore the University did not specify any preferred countries/cities whether the bilateral agreements should be signed: we prefer diversity to uniformity. Our target groups of our mobility activities are both students (in first, second, third cycles) and teachers. Therefore the University organizes several information meeting and events in the frame of LLP/ERASMUS programme/academic year to introduce to our students possibilities of studying abroad and experiences of our students, who already participated in the mobility programme. The University organizes the International Week to exchange information, plan future cooperation and network with our colleagues from the partner universities. As the communication between the University and its partners is important, the University tries to send useful information for partner's students regularly.

Non-EU strategy:

The University of Pardubice signs the cooperative agreements (Memorandum of Understanding) with partners all around the world. However, we focus on countries of former Soviet Union, Asia, Central and South America for target group of student mobilities (mainly in 3rd cycle). The University of Pardubice tries to communicate with its international partners continuously and realize different kinds of projects (e.g. Erasmus Mundus) with them. Our non-EU partners are also invited to our International Week. They also received information concerning important events at the University of Pardubice regularly.

University of Pardubice supports its academic staff in ways of gaining more experience and knowledge. Both sending and receiving researchers and teachers are necessary in order to achieve higher level of quality of research done at the university and the quality of education offered to the students. Providing exchange programs friendly environment and making it comfortable bureau-wise for researchers and teachers to both come to the university from foreign institution and go abroad on an exchange stay is a key factor to successful participate in these activities. That is why the university has administration staff concentrating on supporting all kinds of exchange stays. When a foreign academic comes it is made absolutely sure that he can find help in solving any problem and needs to be faced. In case of local academic preparing to leave for an exchange stay all the support is provided to him so his focus is not shattered because of administration. The gain of successful exchange stay is received not only by the person or department actively participating in such a stay. It trickles down to the students as well. As an example the Integration and Innovation of Teaching within the Study Programmes at the University of Pardubice can be used. The experience gained by local academics gained at other universities and the one received from foreign academics invited to research and teach at the university is then applied and used in the future so that students will share some of its fruits. A successful case of an exchange stay is the best promoter for others. With the administration burden taken away and in case of foreigners coming basic needs taken care of two obstacles are taken away from them. The university concentrates on creating such an environment and motivates its staff through successful examples of exchange stays that happened in the past and thus reaching higher quality of education offered to students and more possibilities for its staff.

University of Pardubice is a relatively new institution but is building up on a tradition of highly significant college. As such the number of student is rising due to growing state of the organization. Being able to offer students the possibility of studying abroad via Erasmus program etc. increases the value of education provided. The importance of mobility of post graduate students is even more important as their knowledge and experience acquired abroad will more likely be shared with the university and might be applied in its operation in the future. By sending students and better yet researchers the university will reach higher level of excellence through the knowledge and experience they will bring back from their exchange stays. The same can be applied on incoming students and researchers. This altogether creates a motivation for youth to become part of the process and will be used in the future to present the case for studying at the university, reaching for every possible student, including groups of non-traditional learners. Especial for adult students the chance to learn from a foreign expert may be very appealing, since their possibility to study abroad is rather limited if not ruled out altogether. With increasing number of students it is necessary to imply ICT as a teaching tool to increase the quality of education received at the universities. Through partnership with other universities and the possibilities brought forth by ICT, the offers of internships and studies abroad may be widened and can be used as leverage when creating partnerships with local businesses. The possibility of cross-border cooperation may attract students and researchers as well as local businesses. Developing

contacts and communication skills through mobility programs as well as seeing example of successful students and researchers may lead to increasing interest in mobility, thus creating a vicious circle of students interested in exchange stays. Actively reaching for students both from local underrepresented groups and from foreign countries EU or non-EU will widen a scale of the students of the university. By widening the scale of students reached by the university, new options and possibilities will appear opening new doors for future cooperation between the university and other organization such as businesses both local and foreign. When the process is successfully started, each factor will work as a complement strengthening university output together creating environment for successful university. Mobility of students is not the only factor but one of the necessary ones that needs to be working on an excellent level in order to create such an environment.