

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

I

One of the assets of the University of Gdansk is its connection with the sea. In a natural way, due to its geographical location, the university concentrates on development in these subjects, which include either the Baltic Sea or maritime issues in general in the scope of their interest. This approach is also important when the University looks for their international partners. The University finds it extremely important and valuable to create close cooperation with academic institutions across Europe and particularly with those located in our neighbouring countries. Recently we have been concentrating our efforts on building a durable cooperation with Ukraine and Russia (district of Kaliningrad). A balanced cooperation with both our western and eastern neighbours seems to be essential. Another important geographical area of cooperation is China. It is essential to provide our students with most modern fields of study which would be an asset on the employment market. Thus, we look for partners among Chinese universities. We also encourage Chinese candidates to study at our institution as full-cycle students. A special study programme is offered to those of them who wish to study Polish language and literature. It has already been completed by a group of ca. 20 students from China.

We give the opportunity of gaining international experience to every student of our institution regardless of their cycle and field of study. Cooperation with certain HEIs across Europe turned out to be mutually beneficial. This means that our students eagerly visit these partner universities and our institution has the pleasure to host their students. The faculties' attitude to teaching staff mobility is to encourage especially these academics that have not had the opportunity yet to provide partner universities with lectures and with the exchange of ideas and good practice. Training mobility is particularly popular among students of third cycle, which tend to combine shorter periods of mobility instead of one longer study mobility. Students in third cycle are therefore especially encouraged to take part in such types of mobility; however the opportunity is open to all university's students. It is strongly believed that developing our cooperation with the institutions from the geographical areas mentioned above will open new opportunities for both studies and traineeships in enterprises. It is nonetheless important to cultivate our existing relations with already verified partners.

Recently the faculties' efforts concentrate on preparing and constant broadening the offer of subjects taught in foreign languages, especially in English. These actions shall lead to preparation of study programmes fully taught in foreign languages. An example of Faculty of Economics clearly proves that such actions are essential if the university wishes to be perceived as an internationalised one. Programme of studies in the field of International Business, fully taught in English (both first and second cycle) attracts a large number of Polish and foreign students, resulting in many new proposals of international cooperation from higher education institutions across Europe. This programme is also a source of income for our university.

Faculty of Economics cooperates within an international network of European universities coordinated by Bremen University of Applied Sciences. This cooperation enables Polish and foreign students, also from non-participating countries, to follow a second cycle Programme in European Economics and Finance. It involves a close cooperation among professionals from several partner universities, providing the students with the most up-to-date and modern knowledge.

II

According to our policy it is important to develop cooperation among other HEIs from our geographical region (Pomorskie province). University of Gdansk has participated in preparation of a long-term cooperation project called “Study in Pomorskie”, launched in 2010 (<http://studyinpomorskie.eu/>). The project enables our University along with other leading HEIs from the region: Gdansk University of Technology, Medical University of Gdansk and Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk to present all our assets and strong points altogether and thus strengthen our international recognition in order to attract potential students from across the world. The cooperation’s further aim is to draw other institutions’ attention to our project which shall result in cooperating with partners from abroad: not only education and research institutions, but also enterprises or social partners. The project is aimed at active exchange of people and ideas, at developing scientific and educational cooperation as well as implementing new technologies together with companies. The universities unite their efforts to effectively support international students who intend to visit the region. Cooperation with local and regional authorities is also important.

Erasmus Intensive Language Course organised by University’s Language Centre shall be mentioned as another example of good practices. Being open for every Erasmus student interested, it supports our university’s international recognition and provides international students with the educational services of the highest quality.

Our policy assumes continuation of both these projects. As a large-scale project, “Study in Pomorskie” may result in implementation of smaller-scale projects and different types of cooperation connected with its general provisions.

III

University of Gdansk’s participation in the Programme shall have an impact on internationalisation of the university’s community by attracting international students to study at our institution and to share different points of view and styles of studying with Polish students. University’s students coming back from their mobility periods abroad shall be able to exchange their experience with the rest of the community, e.g. sharing knowledge, skills and competences acquired during traineeships abroad or different approach to their field of study presented by HEI hosting them. Students of different cycles of study will be encouraged to use the opportunity of going abroad by the possibility of choosing among the increasing number of partner institutions, destinations and types of mobility. The increasing number of mobility opportunities should also induce a larger number of school leavers to continue their education at our institution.

More and more subjects at our university are offered in foreign languages, especially in English, with a view to equip students with modern knowledge conveyed in a modern and attractive way. Some of them should be interested in conducting research in the important sectors of economy as third cycle students. Also, thanks to international cooperation of the university and to exchange of ideas by university teachers, study programmes could be more easily and smoothly adapted to the changing needs of the market. Therefore, our graduates have the chance to be more successful at the labour market. Taking part in relevant work placement opportunities should increase their chances of employment even more. This means that our institution will take part in creating expert human capital to support European economy and European community.

Developing cross-border cooperation with countries from outside the EU as well as with our esteemed partners from EU will increase the mobility among our students who would acquire

and develop their professional, social and intercultural skills during their mobility period. Different host institutions will equip guest students with slightly different skills which could then be exchanged in study groups and during classes. Our students should also be encouraged to take the opportunity of going abroad by recognition of credits gained abroad which becomes more and more efficient and transparent at our university.

Our students have the opportunity of cooperating with business enterprises from our region thanks to traineeship offers acquired by University's Careers Office. They have the possibility to apply theory and academic knowledge in real, day-to-day business situations, developing their entrepreneurial skills. This means that our university takes part in enhancing local economy and society in order to make the region's value more visible on a global scale. This may encourage potential international partners to start cooperation with both the university and business enterprises.