

## **Erasmus Policy Statement – Overall Strategy**

The UIC's strategy is that our students should have well-grounded knowledge, understanding, aptitudes and skills to fulfill themselves, to live in and contribute effectively to society. Our idea is also that they become well-equipped professionals who are ready to influence and shape changes in the global world.

In order to realize this strategy, we have identified four key goals: 1. To equip our students with skills and fully grounded abilities for life and work in a global economy. 2. To engage with our international partners to achieve our common goal of becoming a global university. 3. To strengthen and maximize the "knowledge triangle", linking education, research and business to working in partnership with the business community on an international level. 4. To improve the quality and relevance of teaching and research so that academic curricula reflect the aspirations and meet the needs of individuals, the labor market and the careers of the future.

To meet those goals, during the selection process for our future partner institutions we will try to ensure that good quality partnerships be based not only on the reputation of the partner university but also on good reciprocal student and faculty mobility.

Future bilateral and multilateral agreements will be based on a more flexible undergraduate curriculum that will aim to fully integrate mobility into the curriculum rather than present it as an "opt-in".

We will also actively encourage our academic community to develop opportunities for postgraduate comprehensive mobility at a Master's and Doctoral level. With existing and future partner institutions, we will continue to explore opportunities for joint degrees not only for postgraduate programs (Master's and Doctorate) but we will also revisit the potential for joint undergraduate (Bachelor's) degrees.

We will actively stimulate and reward excellence in teaching and research and encourage more researchers to be trained in order to prepare for the industries and skills of tomorrow.

Finally, we believe that mobility should be "credit-based" mobility and that the minimum for this should be 15 ECTS credits.

We will actively promote and welcome staff mobility so as to learn and transmit good practice and implement this at an institutional level.

Our internationalization strategy clearly sets out the significance of strengthening inter-university relations within Europe, including the European business community. We will continue to nurture and further develop academic, research and business relations with countries located in North America, Central America and South America as well as in Central and South East Asia. Our mid-term internationalization objective is to develop a long-standing, more efficient and effective relationship with universities and business communities based in the Middle East and Japan.

We will continue to develop international relations within the academic and business community through institutional bilateral and multilateral agreements, institutional visits, round tables, seminars, workshops and participation in events in the sector.

Our participation in and design of international cooperation projects reflect the UIC's commitment to society, which concentrates, at this point in time, on three main areas: international cooperation, sustainable development and emergency architecture. Those three aspects are covered in the Master's in International Cooperation and Sustainable Emergency Architecture taught at the UIC as well as the Advanced Erasmus Mundus Master's in Science Program offered in conjunction with three other European universities. Our strategy and objectives concentrate on the management of international humanitarian response systems for post disaster situations as well as international cooperation development projects and urban upgrading in diverse underprivileged contexts.

The UIC's Faculty of Architecture is the only Faculty in Spain that teaches compulsory subjects on international cooperation. Students are introduced to theoretical and practical exercises that encompass the urban to the architectural scale of intervention in developing countries. The UIC cooperates with The Vicente Ferrer Foundation in India to promote alternatives for low-income architectural typologies involving work with low-tech materials and context based solutions.

The UIC has also established the International Cooperation in Architecture Research Group, which recognizes the growing importance of this emerging and cross-disciplinary research field and links its activities to the Doctoral Program in Architecture, Urbanism and Design. The work they undertake is divided into three specific lines of research: 1) International Cooperation and Sustainable Urban Development 2) International Cooperation in Construction and Low Technology, and 3) Emergency Architecture: From Human Settlements to Permanent Housing. The research production in all

three sub-groups is carried out in collaboration with the following UIC research groups: "Regenerating Intermediate Territories" and "Ceramic Systems Innovation and Industrialization."

The impact of participation in the Program on modernization and internationalization is expected to be very positive. This Program will allow for further flexibilization of the academic curriculum and will ensure greater student, faculty and staff mobility. It is also believed that the Program will contribute to facilitate a more extensive use of English as the language of instruction for Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate programs, thus facilitating the creation of joint/double degrees with EU and non-EU countries and encouraging cross-border research. It is expected that the Program will facilitate and improve the transfer of knowledge between universities and business, thus connecting education, research and the business community through an ever-closer inter-dependent relationship.

The Program is also expected to contribute to the improvement of the quality and relevance of teaching and research so that it can increase the employability of students and researchers and provide them with more opportunities to gain additional skills thorough study abroad, internships and cross-border working experiences.

The above expectations of the results are also in line with the UIC's international policy objectives. There is a strong belief that their implementation and follow-up will increase undergraduate and graduate numbers, improve teaching and research quality and contribute to the modernization and internationalization of the university and the successful implementation of EU strategies for jobs and growth.



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