

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2014-21

The "Vision and Goals 2012-15" of Dalarna University states that "by affirming and encouraging a global perspective in our research and education- the most important form of internationalization at an institute of higher education- we can contribute to an understanding of and a commitment to today's global problems. The exchange of students, teachers, and other personnel between institutes of higher education is another form of internationalization that serves to increase understanding between people of different backgrounds, while also showing students, as well as others, the different courses of action that exist".

Internationalization is a main point of policy in the strategic plan 2010-15 of the University. To achieve this, staff and students will be further encouraged to participate in working visits and exchanges with other institutions and HRM policy and curriculum development will focus on an international working and learning environment. We aim to increase the international dimension in education for all students. Dalarna University sets out to improve both the quality and quantity of its international focus; curriculum development should include global perspectives. We aim at introducing international experience as a merit for teachers.

Dalarna University has created a unique net-based learning environment in which students are able to work together at a national and international level. An extensive research and development programme focusing on quality in Next Generation Learning reflects the university's leading international position in synchronous online education. More than 60 % of our students study in net-based courses, many of them from other parts of the world. An international environment is also created by offering English-taught programmes. Currently the University offers several degree programmes at Bachelor and Master's level and hundreds of courses taught in English.

The University works hard to increase and widen its international frame of reference with regard to academic activities. We hope that by developing an extensive international network of colleagues, we will be able to mutually increase learning and understanding that comes from participating in an international academic exchange. We believe that one must be open enough to learn from others and flexible enough to implement what one has learned.

The University has a long history of working with partner institutions throughout Europe, including Turkey and other candidates for membership in the EU. Presently, we are focusing specifically on the central and eastern European nations. Part of our strategy is also to increase partnerships with Asia, Latin America and the African continent where we have initiated several projects. Currently the University has 164 European and 10 non-European partner universities, most of which are long lasting partnerships, as well as a number of Memorandum of Understanding. Dalarna University intends to join in some partnerships where the fundamental goal is to develop joint educational programmes in connection with research.

Dalarna University welcomes about 400 exchange students a year. The number of outgoing students is considerably smaller. We hope to increase the number of outbound students through different measures; we would like to have an approximately equal number of incoming and outgoing students, while at keeping and enhancing the international atmosphere of our campus. We view incoming students as an important key to developing a successful university. Currently approximately 40 Dalarna University staff members participate in the Erasmus programme each year.

We would like to increase the number of Dalarna University students who participate in international exchanges each year. One way to achieve this goal could be through the use of internships. We envision that the predominant number of outbound international exchanges will be at the undergraduate level.

The University's annual report of the departments includes quantitative goals for the staff mobility. Expanding the number of staff who take part in international exchanges to include representatives from all departments is important to increase exchanges in general.

The University has approved several action plans which apply to all students and staff members, among these are:

- Action Plan for Diversity
- Action Plan against Sexual Harassment
- Gender Equality Policy

Special facilities and services are available for disabled students and staff. All buildings at the University have been modified to increase ease of access for people with disabilities. The Student Union is an independent association which represents student matters that concern education monitoring, learning

EUC 29945 - PIC 9865 78077

and student welfare. Dalarna University is socially committed and responds to local and regional developments.

Our goal is to develop further cooperation with partner universities through Intensive and Double Degree Programmes, joint courses and seminars, both net- and on-campus based. International co-operation proposals normally derive from academics, and the departments together with Head of Schools decide if they have the time, resources and student interest.

We have implemented an International Board through which the departments and their staff can be actively involved in Erasmus activities. The Board is comprised of representatives from the Schools, Student Services and the Student Union. It is here that the representatives from these different groups can come together to discuss, cooperate and make strategic decisions regarding international issues. All new proposals are discussed by the Board, results evaluated and disseminated in the organization.

Our institution has the ambition to increase the number of graduates from different educational, economical and ethnical backgrounds and to provide high quality education which includes a wide spectrum of global aspects. The upcoming Vision of the University will focus on the global responsibilities of each and every individual, the Millennium Goals and how to create a sustainable society. This implies students with a high consciousness and awareness of different global issues, In order to succeed in their professions and in global society, our graduates must possess sufficient knowledge and core competences. One very important tool is the access to international contacts, relations, teachers, researchers and co-operations. We need to embrace all types of possibilities, and the international networks and partnerships are essential in order to increase understanding of people from different backgrounds, while also showing students, as well as others, the different types of actions that exist. Both European and non-European contacts are increasingly important, and the ambition is that international aspects in a natural way shall permeate all education and activities in the University. The University works hard to strengthen the connections with enterprises, research centres and the regions, with which we interact a lot. It is also important to find new ways of cooperation, international networks and excellent partners in order to boost performance, not the least important to our research. In order to do so we need an efficient organisation and good funding possibilities which we will find through participation in the Erasmus Programme.