

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) 2021-2027**

### **I-OVERALL STRATEGY**

Through our participation in the Erasmus programme we wish to drive modernisation and internationalisation at our institution, as well as contribute to building a European space for education, learning and research without borders; help economic growth; promote social cohesion and consolidate our European identity –in all its diversity and multiculturalism– in current and future generations. Likewise, by collaborating in the program, Universidad Europea de Canarias reinforces its Strategic Internationalisation Plan. The key points of this plan are as follows: 1) Further digitization and simplification of mobility processes; 2) Advancement in the Bologna process; 3) Implementation of a new Internationality structure (this team will coordinate its processes and policies with the international teams of Universidad Europea de Valencia and Universidad Europea de Madrid); 4) Increase in the satisfaction and proportion of mobility students; 5) Signing of new agreements that are both beneficial and realistic with universities of interest, following a clear strategy and focusing on programs with fewer mobility agreements (such as newer degrees); 6) Promotion of double outgoing mobilities, in which students stay in two different countries, for two semesters in consecutive years; 7) Increase in staff mobility and recognition.

In addition, our participation in the Erasmus programme strengthens the University's Modernisation Plan. Projects outlined in this plan include, among others: 1) Process Simplification and Automation Plan, in which three projects stand out: 1.1) the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform; 1.2) the Student Portal; 3) Digital Transformation Plan; 2) The Academic Model Innovation Project. To mention a few key areas within this project: 2.1) Blended Learning Project; 2.2) XRLab; 2.3) Challenge-Based Learning (Social Sciences); 3) Research Plan; 4) Quality, Self-assessment and External Assessment & Recognition Plan; 5) Student and Staff Health & Safety Improvement Project. With these actions we have set the following objectives, in alignment with the initiatives established by the European Commission for the development of an Education Area and with our Strategic Internationalisation and Modernisation Plan, in order to foster student and staff mobility for internships, academic purposes, research and employability throughout Europe:

1. Contribute to making international stays the norm among students and staff. As outlined in our Internationalisation Plan, it is our objective to promote the international mobility program, extend agreements and deepen our knowledge of the destinations' academic offer to be able to consolidate and increase both the quantity and quality of our international mobility. To that end, another idea is for it to be increasingly common for students to go abroad not once, but twice in different academic terms and in different countries so as to further expand their multiculturalism and acquire a third language.

Likewise, for this objective it is essential for us to continue to develop the inclusive, global profile of our programmes to be increasingly more attractive to international students and staff, and for our students to experience this global spirit on campus as well. In that regard, we offer a range of subjects in English. These programs receive large numbers of Spanish students as well as Erasmus and bilateral exchange students, both of which contributing to the university's multicultural character.

Our Internationalisation and Modernisation Plan also contemplates advancements currently underway in the simplification, digitalization and automation of processes. In this effort to modernise, in 2021 we will be going further than the move on implementation and will continue working on the project Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) and all it entails, such as the Erasmus Student Card (ESC) initiative which we will implement for the 2021-27 period.

2. Support the consolidation of the Bologna process, in terms of the recognition of degrees and credits completed abroad, mutual learning through the exchange of best practices, inclusive and innovative methodologies, cooperation in teaching, as well as innovation and research –as proposed in the Internationalization Plan.

3. Encourage the learning of at least two languages other than the mother tongue to be the norm among European citizens. We are working towards this objective, set in our Internationalization Plan, from various angles: 3.1) Fostering mobility (including two terms abroad per student, as outlined in the previous section); 3.2) Offering programmes partially taught in English aiding in the immersion in a second language, promotion of activities taught in English, as well as a foreign language subject included in a large number of degree programmes 3.3) Strengthening support for Language Centres. For example, language teachers are encouraged to go beyond teaching a language and transmit intercultural competences, diversity and inclusion. In addition, an online, language-learning platform is being implemented to complement face-to-face teaching.

4. Support inclusion by attracting and sending –thanks to the Erasmus Programme– students and staff from all origins and diverse socio-economic backgrounds throughout Europe, without discriminating against absolutely anyone, as established by the University’s Diversity Policy. Furthermore, we continue to support the inclusion of incoming and outgoing students and staff with special needs.

5. Foster the values of European identity, such as “unity in diversity” and other values such as human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are acquired travelling abroad as well as on campus –integrated in day-to-day learning within subjects, activities and clubs– and are in line with the University’s stated mission, to “contribute to social progress with [...] entrepreneurial spirit and ethical value”.

6. Cultivate the key competences for Lifelong learning. Literacy; Multilingualism; Numerical and scientific skills; Interpersonal skills; citizenship; Entrepreneurship; Cultural awareness and expression; Digital and technology-based competences. All these competences are found in the various subjects within our bachelor’s and master’s degree programs, and several which materialise in cross-curricular subjects existing in our degrees (ex: Ethics; Communication Skills, etc.).

7. Consolidate a culture of continuous improvement, transparency, simplification of processes and data-driven analysis based on key indicators. By participating in this process and in the Erasmus Programmes, also provides us with a great opportunity for improvement given by the external assessment from the ECHE and the national agency. In this spirit of measurement, analysis and continuous improvement, in the academic year 2020-21 we will pilot the ECHE Self-assessment, analysing the mobility in 2019-20. We will fully implement this measure from the 2021-27 programme onwards.

## **II-IMPLEMENTATION OF ERASMUS+ ACTIVITIES IN THE INSTITUTION**

We want to take part in KA1-Learning mobility, an action that contributes to our institutional objective of advancing the internationalization and modernization of our university. This objective is reflected in the mission of our university, "prepared to respond to the demands of a global world", and defines us as an "inclusive, multicultural organization that values diversity and respects all cultural perspectives and characteristics". In this sense, we would like to continue to implement and improve this action, helping more and more students and staff experience an international stay in order to foster that global vision. Likewise, this is reinforced by attracting both exchange and permanent international students as well as staff, so that the great inclusion, diversity and multiculturalism that is currently felt in the university can gain traction.

This improvement, reflected in the strategic objectives of our Internationalization Plan, must be not only quantitative but also qualitative, improving the perception of the participants through different implementation initiatives: 1) Increase information available on processes and destinations before the stay (from the first year of studies, so that they are aware of the need to improve their second or third language) as well as specific information for incoming students and staff; 2) Increase the monitoring of outgoing and incoming students and staff during their stay, focusing particularly on those participants with fewer opportunities and on the integration of incoming participants; 3) Count on the alumni community as ambassadors to promote the programme to future participants; 4) Expand the automation and simplification of processes; 5) Persist in the strategic search for quality agreements for our students and staff, focusing on relatively newer degrees that, for this reason, have fewer mobility agreement opportunities and monitoring these agreements more intensively.

## **III- IMPACT OF ERASMUS+ PROGRAM IN THE INSTITUTION**

KA1. Student and Staff Mobility. The long-term impact of our participation would be seen in our alumni, and could be measured in terms of their percentage of European employability or of European clients and partners; regarding their languages level; and in terms of their European awareness (for example, measuring the% of participation in European elections). For staff, impact will be seen if future agreements, projects and improvements in their teaching and research.

Quantitative indicators: we will employ two types of indicators: general university-wide indicators and specific indicators by School/Faculty, in order to consolidate mobility in Faculties with a high degree of mobility, and to focus on Faculties with lower mobility rates. These will include, at the very least, the following indicators: 1) Number of incoming / outgoing mobilities (differentiating between Erasmus and other programmes); 2) Percentage of outgoing mobility with respect to the total number of eligible students (students who have completed at least 60 ECTS credits at the university); 3) Decrease in the attrition rate (%) among outgoing students during the preparation of their stay; 4) Number of Erasmus and bilateral agreements per program; 5) Percentage of the Erasmus budget spent as compared to

the assigned budget. 6) Number of incoming students who participate in university clubs (integration indicators) and other integration activities. Qualitative indicators: These include, among others: 1) Satisfaction questionnaires of both incoming and outgoing students & staff 2) Incoming and outgoing student & staff testimonials

**Support:** International strategy will be led by the Head of the Department of International Mobility (in the Vice-Rectorate for Institutional Relations & University Life); mobility management, admission, administrative and academic support of incoming/outgoing students will be carried out by the International Mobility Advisor together with the International Academic Mentor. The participants of internship and traineeship mobility programmes have the support of the Professional Careers Service Counsellors, who works in coordination with the mobility department. Regarding incoming / outgoing staff, support for these participants is given by Academic Heads of the Vice-Rectorate of Faculty and Research, as well as the various Schools/Faculties and/or departments of the respective staff members, in coordination with the international team.

**Quality:** The quality of programme implementation will be managed by both the International Mobility Advisor and the Head of the Department of Internationality Mobility, by measuring the established indicators, analysing the results in our annual self-assessment reports as well as in the ECHE Self-assessment reports. Likewise, this annual diagnostic report will feed into the Institution's Strategic Internationalisation Plan.

**Timeline for the implementation of improvement measures and objectives:** The improvement targets for each indicator will be established each year from the follow up report. In general, these will be established in such a way as to generate sustainable improvements ranging from 2-10% gains per annum, depending on the item. Regarding the improvement measures proposed, we would highlight: 1) the European Student Card for digital mobility management and to provide a connection between our mobility system and the EWP Network. Objective: implementation in 2021; 2) Outgoing and Incoming Alumni Ambassador Plan. Objective: implementation in 2021-22; 3) Student English level improvement project from year one on. Objective: implementation 2021; 5) Integrate all current safety plans into the unified Institutional Plan for safety and prevention on Exchange. Objective: implementation in 2021.