

Erasmus Policy Statement

Charles University in Prague (CU) endeavours to deepen and broaden the ideal of the university as a community in which the relationships between the members are determined by intellectual authority rather than power, and in which the principles of academic freedom are preserved as the necessary foundation of the existence of the academic community and its teaching and research activities. One of the basic principles of CU is the aspiration to provide access to learning to everyone who wants it. CU identifies with the idea of world-wide co-operation between universities not just as the foundation for international academic research but above all as the condition for the education of new generations in a spirit of understanding and tolerance.

In line with its long-term internationalisation strategy, CU's most important objectives are to:

- make use of CU's international reputation to further increase international exchanges with attractive partners throughout the world;
- place special emphasis on the quality of international relations, in particular by supporting those with outcomes in the form of cooperation in education, joint research projects, and high-quality publications; concentrate especially on cooperation with a greater number of universities of excellence;
- improve the quality of research and education at the university by seeking and creating ways to recruit leading international experts for cooperation on teaching and research, and postdoc workers for longer stays;
- involve CU workplaces more intensively in joint supervision of theses and dissertations, the use of the Erasmus Mundus programme, and joint degrees;
- continue supporting student mobility with an emphasis on their practical outcomes in terms of quality (especially in doctoral and master study programmes), integrate them organically into study programmes, and, if finances permit, to enable everyone who wants to and who displays the necessary qualities to spend part of their studies at an HEI abroad;
- continuously develop and further expand the quality of teaching in foreign languages for international students, aim at a greater number of active foreign-language study programmes where this is desirable, and implement a proactive approach to recruiting international students;
- continue developing cooperation with prestigious international organisations, associations and networks, and aim at increasing the benefits of membership for CU;
- actively help create an international higher education policy that aims to play a role in positive changes in Czech higher education, too.


Charles University in Prague has set as a global goal the development and strategic construction of a modern university that is active on the international education and research scene. An important characteristic of CU's basic priorities is their stress on qualitative transformation of international cooperation, with a particular emphasis on links to scholarship and research. Internationalisation should be an integral part of the development of the research and education activities of all faculties, and should become the basic condition for the development of all the main activities of the university. Through the EU programmes CU participates in international programmes and university networks and works on establishing joint research centres. CU has contacts mainly with leading European and world HEIs that lead the way in their fields, and with prominent centres and non-governmental organisations that are involved in supporting scholarship and research. One of the criteria is that partner universities should be highly placed in the worldwide ranking lists. A system is planned to motivate academic staff to cooperate with leading universities.

In order to achieve successful, cost-efficient, and sustainable results of a sufficiently high quality, CU undertakes to contribute to the EU's modernisation and internationalisation agenda in higher education by:

- developing cooperation with partners in other EU or non-EU countries in the framework of a clear strategy for internationalisation;
- promoting and supporting student and staff mobility, including from underrepresented groups, and further developing non-discrimination policies;
- applying a clear policy towards the development of integrated, transnational teaching activities (joint courses / modules / curricula, double / multiple / joint degrees);
- recognising the importance of the results achieved by its staff members engaged in individual mobility or in cooperation projects with strategic partners;
- taking into account the results of internal monitoring of European and international mobility and cooperation activities to date, thus further developing its international performance.

The overall impact of CU's participation in the Programme on its modernisation is expected to be:

- A greater number of mobilities
- A greater number of partnerships (bilateral agreements)
- A greater number of joint study programmes
- A greater number of international students (both for shorter periods and those completing an entire study programme)
- A greater number of international teachers at CU
- A greater number and proportion of students studying in foreign languages (usually English)
- Increased internationalisation of the academic community and comparison with international standards of research quality
- Increased internationalisation of the university system (openness to the world, greater participation in education mobility, in building up the European Higher Education Area, including joint M.A. and Ph.D. programmes, and in the European Research Area)
- A higher position for CU in international ranking lists
- More high-quality international publications and patents



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