

Erasmus Policy Statement

Masaryk University sets internationalization as one of its priority areas, which is closely linked to the priorities of the European education area and the expansion of international mobility. During the last 7 years the University has achieved significant progress implementing the strategic goals set for the period until the end of 2020. The University is now setting up the new strategy for internationalization for the period of 2021-2027. The new strategy strongly emphasizes:

1. Strong support of the newly established alliance in the framework of the initiatives European Universities – European Digital UniverCity (EDUC). MU is committed to harmonize academic and administrative processes in the alliance and to support the common research and development of the partners involved.
2. Strong support for digitalization of the University and full involvement of the initiative Erasmus Without Paper. The process of digitalization of all processes at the University, including mobility, is a priority for the University management with the aim to have a paperless University by 2027.
3. Transnational mobility of students (physical, digital or blended) at all levels between EU countries and beyond. The aim of the University is to make international experience accessible for every student.
4. Transnational mobility of academic and administrative staff, between HEI in the EU and beyond, with the aim of increasing the professionalization and international confidence of the human resources inside the University as well as bringing internationalization home for non-mobile students and staff.
5. Widening the selection of English degree programmes offered, as well as creating conditions for making the programmes taught in Czech language available for international students.
6. Strong support of international placements and traineeships in enterprises.
7. Strong support for the development of joint/multiple/double degree programmes.
8. Establishing strategic partnerships to foster sustainable cooperation with the aim of achieving further development and modernisation of the University; as well as a means of transfer of knowledge and experience to support policy reforms or capacity building activities for our partners.
9. Strong support for international research and knowledge transfer with the aim of maintaining and widening the top-level science and research opportunities, as well as achieving sustainable research and teaching collaborations in European and non-European countries.
10. Increasing the visibility of Masaryk University in the world and a strong support of global engagement. Faithful to the ideals of democracy and freedom, balanced by a respect for rules, and both social and individual responsibility defended by the first President of the then Czechoslovakia, Thomas Garrigue Masaryk whose name it proudly bears, Masaryk University strives to increase its visibility and to prove its place in the global world.
11. The Erasmus Programme is the central instrument for achieving the above listed strategic goals and will be fully used in the upcoming Erasmus Programme generation 2021-27. All the strategic goals are also fully in line with the aims of the Erasmus Programme and Masaryk University is committed to follow all the rules and requirements.

Masaryk University is one of two Czech universities which were successful with proposals for the pilot European University alliance. The EDUC network is supported by the EU as a European University with a focus on the development of mobility and exchange scenarios, multilingualism, inclusion, interdisciplinarity and digital technologies. With the development of EDUC, MU will significantly expand

Masaryk University

Žerotínovo nám. 617/9, 601 77 Brno, Czech Republic

T: +420 549 49 1111, E: info@muni.cz, W: www.muni.cz

Bank account: KB Brno, AN: 85636621/0100, ID: 00216224, Tax ID: CZ00216224

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its mobility for both students and teachers. The Erasmus program is the central instrument for this expansion and will be fully rolled out in the upcoming Erasmus programme generation 2021-27 with the aim of achieving 50% mobility within the network. An essential part of the mobility scenarios in EDUC, which provide for modular study at various EDUC partner universities, will be a variant of the European student ID, the "EDUCardS", currently being developed by EDUC partner University Rennes I. In addition to the physical mobility, flexible digital teaching and learning formats in the EDUC network are expanded and made usable for the process of internationalized higher education. In addition, the EDUC partners want to harmonize university infrastructures and coordinate them with one another. The development of digital skills and infrastructure can be used to build blended learning formats. Other goals to be pursued in EDUC, and beyond in other partnerships, are the expansion of multilingualism, the development of intercultural skills, and the implementation of the principle of inclusive education.

Apart from the European Universities alliance, MU was very successful in all of the Key Actions (KA) of the Erasmus+ Programme. Specifically, KA1 is very important for the University, where not only mobility within EU was supported, but the University was granted a very good number of mobility for International Credit mobility. With the support of Erasmus+, 107 projects, 422 students and 318 staff were supported on mobility to MU and 71 students and 105 staff had the opportunity to go on mobility to various partner universities all over the world. These mobility opportunities were particularly important for our partner universities, where for majority of the participants, it was their first experience abroad and first moment to understand the importance of internationalization and to explore the European Higher Education area. MU is determined to continue and increase the number of mobility for the new phase of the programme.

prof. MUDr. Martin Bareš, Ph.D., rector of Masaryk University