



ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2014-2020

The European Commission hereby awards this Charter to:

UNIVERSIDADE DOS AÇORES

The Institution undertakes to respect the following principles:

- + Respect in full the principles of non-discrimination set out in the Programme and ensure equal access and opportunities to mobile participants from all backgrounds.
- + Ensure full recognition for satisfactorily completed activities of study mobility and, where possible, traineeships in terms of credits awarded (ECTS or compatible system). Ensure the inclusion of satisfactorily completed study and / or traineeship mobility activities in the final record of student achievements (Diploma Supplement or equivalent).
- + Charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities.

The Institution further undertakes to:

- When Participating in Mobility Activities -

Before Mobility

- + Publish and regularly update the course catalogue on the website of the Institution well in advance of the mobility periods, so as to be transparent to all parties and allow mobile students to make well-informed choices about the courses they will follow.
- + Carry out mobility only within the framework of prior agreements between institutions. These agreements establish the respective roles and responsibilities of the different parties, as well as their commitment to shared quality criteria in the selection, preparation, reception and integration of mobile participants.
- + Ensure that outgoing mobile participants are well prepared for the mobility, including having attained the necessary level of linguistic proficiency.
- + Ensure that student and staff mobility for education or training purposes is based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff validated in advance between the home and host institutions or enterprises and the mobile participants.
- + Provide assistance related to obtaining visas, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- + Provide assistance related to obtaining insurance, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- + Provide guidance to incoming mobile participants in finding accommodation.

During Mobility

- + Ensure equal academic treatment and services for home students and staff and incoming mobile participants.
- + Integrate incoming mobile participants into the Institution's everyday life.
- + Have in place appropriate mentoring and support arrangements for mobile participants.
- + Provide appropriate linguistic support to incoming mobile participants.

After Mobility

- + Accept all activities indicated in the learning agreement as counting towards the degree, provided these have been satisfactorily completed by the mobile students.
- + Provide incoming mobile participants and their home institutions with transcripts containing a full, accurate and timely record of their achievements at the end of their mobility period.
- + Support the reintegration of mobile participants and give them the opportunity, upon return, to build on their experiences for the benefit of the Institution and their peers.
- + Ensure that staff are given recognition for their teaching and training activities undertaken during the mobility period, based on a mobility agreement.

- When Participating in European and International Cooperation Projects -

- + Ensure that cooperation leads to sustainable and balanced outcomes for all partners.
- + Provide relevant support to staff and students participating in these activities.
- + Exploit the results of the projects in a way that will maximise their impact on individuals and participating institutions and encourage peer learning with the wider academic community.

- For the Purposes of Visibility -

- + Display this Charter and the related Erasmus Policy Statement prominently on the Institution's website.
- + Promote consistently activities supported by the Programme, along with their results.

On behalf of the Institution, I recognise that implementation of the Charter will be monitored and that violation of any of the above principles and commitments may lead to its withdrawal by the European Commission.

JOÃO LUÍS RODRIGUES BAPTISTA GASPAR
Legal representative

P. AÇORES01

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The University of the Azores has, since its early days, adopted ERASMUS mobility as its internationalization flag. At first, bilateral agreements arose as a result of previously existing scientific cooperation among scientific teams from different countries. While at first partnerships were limited almost exclusively to Central and South European countries, at present proposals also come from the new EC member countries and from other regions (Turkey, for instance), as a result of the divulgation work carried out by the International Relations Office. Each proposal is sent to the Departmental Coordinator for appreciation, in order to define the terms in which the agreement will be done, according to the department's interest in this collaboration. If approved, the Institutional Coordinator will set the process in march.

Our main objectives are to provide contact with new techniques, learning methodologies and, last but not least, to broaden the horizons of students and staff members, by experiencing new cultures, respecting in full the principles of non-discrimination set out in the Programme and ensuring equal access and opportunities to mobile participants from all backgrounds.

For this purpose, students are supported in their decision to proceed with part of their studies abroad and to participate in training periods. By applying for the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education our institution will ensure full recognition for satisfactorily completed activities of study mobility and, where possible, traineeships in terms of credits awarded (ECTS or compatible system), and the inclusion of satisfactorily completed study and/or traineeship mobility activities in the final record of student achievements, using the Diploma Supplement or equivalent as an instrument of external valuation of its curricular and extra-curricular competences.

The University of the Azores also supports Staff mobility (academic and non-academic staff) to teach and/or to be trained, based on an agreement between the sending and receiving institutions/organizations. Staff from enterprises can also be supported to deliver training courses or workshops oriented towards real case approach. Upon return, our University gives the opportunity to promote the visibility of their mobility activities, valuing these activities in the framework of their professional skills for the benefit of the Institution and their peers.

Our institution participates in ERASMUS/MUNDUS with other institutions. In this case, each proposal derives from a group of professors that, in cooperation with their peers from at least three institutions from three different countries, prepare a joint proposal to be submitted to the Commission.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The University of the Azores strives at present to achieve a higher and higher level of internationalization. The ERASMUS mobility is an important tool to reach this goal. In the coming period, the University of the Azores will gradually introduce English as the teaching language in its courses. At present, subjects in class are taught in Portuguese but incoming students are entitled to free Portuguese language support throughout their exchange period. A tutorial system is mostly used, however, some professors offer the possibility to teach in other languages if necessary. The University of the Azores also offers the possibility of participation on the Erasmus Intensive Language Courses. Portugal has a privileged connection with Portuguese speaking countries in Africa and South America that are part of our internationalization strategy. Several successful study periods have been carried out by students from these sources at our institution. These countries are also of interest as far as staff training is concerned. Regarding EU countries, the University of the Azores intends to consolidate the existing bilateral agreements, as well as expand our present range of partners. Special attention will be paid to the new EU member and candidate countries. In this case, contacts may be carried out with the help of the National Agency. As a Macaronesian university, we intend to tighten the links with other island universities of the Atlantic and French protectorates.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

By participating in ERASMUS mobility, our institution expects to increase attractiveness of higher studies, responding to the need of (more) well-educated graduates with the right types of knowledge and skills in Europe and in Portugal. ERASMUS mobility may foster the innovation potential of our institution and its staff by promoting the contact with new work and cultural realities and idea exchange. By participating in mobility, the students will complement the skills and experience they acquire in our institution, including transversal skills. Ultimately, their life and study experience abroad will help preparing them for life. ERASMUS is ideally suited for this purpose, since it provides more than just a study experience. For visibility purposes of the program, our institution undertakes to display the Charter and the related Erasmus Policy Statement prominently on the Institution's website and to promote consistently activities supported by the program, along with their results.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)