



**Aleksandras  
Stulginskis  
University**

## [Aleksandras Stulginskis University](#), Lithuania

# **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT**

The highlighting of internationalisation and openness of teaching and research is one of the key issues among other strategic trends and goals of ASU. The tasks to be performed focuses on: education of students able to compete in international labour market; participation in international thematic networks; stimulation of teachers visits to partner universities abroad; development of study openness by inviting foreign teachers and researchers; further development of international studies in all three study cycles; increasing participation in the EU student and teacher exchanges; improvement of foreign language knowledge of students participating at international studies at home; applying of ECTS internally and in educational exchanges; using of study literature in foreign languages and other activities.

The further trends of University participation in ERASMUS for All programme and related publicity policy is based on University's development strategy:

- partners for international cooperation are chosen according to proximity of their higher education fields in studies and research according to their achievements in relevant areas on international level, their experience in international cooperation and internationalisation of studies;
- priorities for geographical areas of international cooperation are European Union countries (especially Baltic and Nordic countries), countries with high potential of international education and research (such as USA, China, India, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia), countries having historical and cultural relations with Lithuania (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan), other countries being potentially interesting for attracting international students (Western Balkans, South Mediterranean, Western and Central African countries, Southern Asian countries);
- most important objectives of ASU mobilities is exchange of experiences with other universities, promotion of ASU potential for future study and research cooperation (including development of study programmes of joint and double degrees), for involving new BSc, MSc and PhD students to international study programs of ASU;
- ASU target groups of study and training mobility activities are students of all three cycles, teachers and staff involved in internationalisation of studies and research in ASU;
- development of short cycle intensive courses together with partner universities in Baltic and Nordic countries, with Kazakhstan universities is important and promising segment of international education activity of ASU;
- dissemination of information on international studies at ASU, informing about future developments of EU educational programmes and ERASMUS for All programme, improvement of internal regulations for ERASMUS activities, management procedures and recognition of ERASMUS studies, distribution of information on ERASMUS and ECTS documents among students and teachers are important parts of publicity policy of ASU;
- visibility of international activities in students and teachers exchange is provided by using wide range of possible information dissemination means (ICT, conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, meetings) about possibilities of ERASMUS exchanges, programme management system and tools, its influence on personal achievements and the University study system;
- participation of international experts in assessment of University study programmes is important part of quality assurance of studies at ASU;
- ASU strategy includes formation of suitable conditions for studies, work and social expression of disabled students and staff, participation in ERASMUS programme according to the rules of gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism.

University's strategy emphasis permanent expansion of institutional participation at international educational programmes. Participation of University's students and teachers at ERASMUS for All programme is important tool to develop skills in study, teaching and training exchange, linguistic abilities, working in international environment. The international cooperation experience gained at ERASMUS activities serves for successful University's involvement into other international teaching and training projects, particularly Nordplus, TEMPUS, Nordic and Baltic Veterinary, Agriculture and Forestry University Networks (NOVA and BOVA UN), Jean Monnet mobility programme. Together with ERASMUS programme these projects are of great importance for University's students and teaching staff training. This leads to curriculum design for international students, creation of joint study programmes with EU and non EU partner universities and university networks.

The Strategy 2020 of Aleksandras Stulginskis University is closely related with the concepts of EC Communication COM(2011) 567 – Agenda for the Modernisation of Europe's Higher Education Systems. Expectations of ASU from participation at ERASMUS for All programme are highly related with expectations of successful implementation of strategy's objectives and tasks.

Participation in the Programme will have positive impact to increasing number of University's students. The possibility of study exchanges is considered as one of the important tools to attract new students to enter the University's study programmes. University advertises the attractiveness of studies by having the possibilities for home students to participate at ERASMUS study exchanges and take part time studies at European partner universities.

Programme will serve to improvement of quality and relevance of University's education process. The key activities of the Programme will give clear and effective measures to increase involvement of students and staff to study exchanges and placements, teaching and training visits, intensive programmes and thematic networks. This will give excellent possibilities to participants – both students and teachers - to transfer competences of studies and teaching. Students will have possibility to experience new and innovative learning approaches and delivery methods. Staff will gain more skills on improving those teaching experiences, flexible adoption of teaching methods and speeding up the curricula changes, necessary to follow the needs of labour market.

Programme will directly serve to strengthening quality of learning at University through mobility and cross border cooperation. Erasmus for All programme gives wide geographical and professional possibilities for University's teachers and students to choose places for performing of mobility under them personal and departmental needs. The needs of wide recognition of academic qualification gained after mobility will foster University permanently improve its academic recognition system.

Programme will contribute to development the knowledge triangle work – links between university education, research and business. By participating under ERASMUS placement activities on national and international scale University's students will develop practical skills with business sector and gain practical professional knowledge. The supervising teachers will have the possibility to develop new types of university–business cooperation. Teachers going for training to companies or other institutions will better understand the needs and expectations from employers regarding graduates. This will facilitate more effective and flexible curriculum changes to fulfil business needs and expectations.

Successful participation at Programme will significantly contribute to general study exchange financing in University budget and increase the number of mobilities.

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