

## ERASMUS Policy Statement

**Explanation of a) how the FH Campus Wien chooses its partners, b) preferred geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of its mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles) and the participation in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees.**

The FH Campus Wien has set itself 5 strategic goals for internationalization until 2016

- Focus on strategic partnerships and integration in international networks
- The first stage involves focusing on universities and partners with programs in German or English
- Internationalization at Home (IaH)
- Promotion of multilingualism
- Culture of open-mindedness

The FH Campus Wien considers the development of a European knowledge society and initiatives such as 'lifelong learning' an important impetus for the development of its potentials, primarily in academic quality, but also in its international networking activities, competitiveness, profiling and visibility. Through international comparison, the university intends to obtain a more objective assessment of its own achievements.

In our view high-quality academic training requires a culture of open-mindedness. With regard to internationalization our efforts focus on skills acquisition based on cross-border, mutual learning and development of both, our students and employees. This objective implies a (gradual) international orientation of the entire university. IaH and its associated structural, organizational and cultural development reach all students and employees of the FH Campus Wien in contrast to international mobility (direct or indirect). Consequently, IaH is of the utmost importance for internationalization.

The FH Campus Wien pays more attention to the quality of a partner institution or a study program than on the quantity of the partnership agreements. The number of cooperation agreements for student exchange usually results from general demand and student needs and staff resources in the study program.

In the current development phase selected contact and cooperation opportunities in Europe are of strategic importance, which provide impulses for the internationalization of teaching and research through joint activities. In addition, the FH Campus Wien intends to increasingly use international specialized university networks to be integrated into dissertation networks and to strengthen its R & D activities. In line with the bottom-up principle the responsibility for focusing on strategic partnerships lies primarily with the individual departments.

Predominantly cooperation should be strengthened with universities and partner organizations which allow an exchange in English or German. Currently the mobility flows show a clear tendency towards Central, Northern and Western Europe. The joint programs SOWOSEC (Social Economy and Social Work) at the FH Campus Wien have taken on a pioneering role in establishing cooperation with institutions in Eastern Europe, which should be followed by other study programs in the medium term.

Within the framework of Tempus projects connections with the SOE countries should be strengthened at university level in the coming years. An exception to the requirement to enable cooperation in English or German is the study program Social Work, which plans to strengthen cooperation with organizations primarily located in Africa and Latin America in the context of development cooperation.

The main target group of students can be found in full-time Bachelor degree programs, due to the practical, relevant training with a content-related focus on work placement mobility. A second focus is the composition of Master's theses abroad. Staff mobility, both incoming and outgoing, is the basis for strengthening international curricula and teaching models. This should also promote IaH and intensify strategic partnerships. Subsequently, increased opportunities for student mobility can be developed; strategic cooperation as well as the high commitment of the study program heads and lecturers are significant for the successful implementation of double / multiple / joint degrees.

Last but not least the students and employees with their different cultural backgrounds and experiences make an important contribution to internationality at the FH Campus Wien. The FH Campus Wien wants to support / encourage its students to acquire knowledge of those languages, apart from German, that influence people's daily lives in Vienna and that might also be important in their future professional life. Greater attention is also given to the establishment of courses in English. By 2016 ten percent of all courses shall be held in English according to the FH Campus Wien strategy.

### **The FH Campus Wien strategy for the organization and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the program**

The FH Campus Wien wants to be an active, strong and reliable partner in both national and international cooperation projects. Once the university has decided to participate in a collaborative project, it actively contributes to the successful implementation. Criteria for participation are high practical relevance, the integrity of the potential project partners, the opportunity to transfer results into teaching, creation of content-related and organizational added value, the financial viability of the equity component, high quality professional exchange and, last but not least, compliance with mission and vision of the FH Campus Wien. If possible, organizations and students will actively be involved; additionally, the strategic network shall be strengthened through project participation. This also applies to projects that are carried out under Erasmus or other international programs.

Project management is based on project management guidelines and related decision-making processes that have been developed by the Department of Higher Education Development (AHE)

and are continuously being enhanced. The decision to participate in (international) cooperation projects is usually taken in the respective departments. The framework is set by the strategic goals of the university.

Larger project proposals are evaluated in the project control group (PSK). This is made up of representatives of the university management, the study programs and selected departments and controls the project portfolio of the FH Campus Wien. Central support in all phases of major international cooperation projects is provided by the International Office and by AHE in the case of specific questions. Smaller projects, which only involve the respective department and do not require significant funding, will be realized by the department without the involvement of PSK; they may be supported by the International Office, if necessary.

**Expected impact of your participation in the program on the modernization of the institution** *(For each of the priorities of the modernization agenda in terms of the policy objectives the institution intends to achieve)*

The program supports the FH Campus Wien in its vision to consistently implement modern European education policy and university teaching concepts so as to develop into a leading LLL university in the medium or long term. That means professional field-oriented and science-based education and training according to international standards, characterized by individual support, work in small groups, as well as compulsory work placement.

A guarantor of diversity is the variety of approaches to studying at the FH Campus Wien. Through low tuition fees and state student grants studying is also possible for financially disadvantaged students. In 2011 the FH Campus Wien signed the Diversity Charter; it sets priorities on gender mainstreaming, on extra-occupational students of all ages as well as on people with a migrant background. These aspects are taken into account in international activities. In research, a main focus is on application-oriented R & D including the participation of students and graduates.

High "employability" of graduates is a key objective of the FH Campus Wien. The increase of "problem based learning" approaches and the enhancement of classroom teaching through "blended learning" modules shall facilitate student-centered learning. Cooperation activities will be used to strengthen the links of the lecturers and scientists with the International Scientific Community and to increase the chances for Master's degree graduates to participate in international doctoral studies.

Subsidies for shorter SMPs will continue to increase the number of mobile students. After receiving the DS Label in 2013, the application for the ECTS label is planned in the medium term, as well as opening the university to new international student groups. Significantly more courses shall be taught in English. The recognition of ECTS credits and diplomas acquired abroad is continuously being improved.

The FH Campus Wien is anchored regionally and is managed in an entrepreneurial way. Thanks to institutional independence the university is able to actively shape its development through strategic partnerships within the economy and society. The involvement in national and international specialist networks as well as collaborations with universities, organizations and companies contribute significantly to the quality of the curricula and research activities.

The university management consists of the rectorate (academic leadership) and the management (business management). The established legal and institutional governance structures are continuously evaluated internally and externally in 7-year intervals and are subject to ongoing improvement processes. The cooperation with decision-makers, as well as steady growth through publicly funded study places, should secure basic financing and create synergies. The acquisition of third-party funds is being promoted and institutionalized.