

## **Erasmus Policy Statement**

**Internationalisation Strategy** 



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## ECHE 2021-2027

The VIU, aware that the employability of university students must be increasingly global, has internationalization as one of its main objectives. This strategy gives the mobility of its students and teachers and cooperation with other European and international centers a relevant importance as a contribution to their training objectives in excellence.

This strategy focuses on several actions:

- Existence of a Vice-Rector Office for Research and Knowledge Transfer in coordination with the Erasmus Office.
- Encouragement to carry out study and internship mobilities for both sending and receiving students, with special attention to those with fewer opportunities. Recognition and visibility of these mobilities.
- Encouragement to carry out teacher mobilities for learning purposes through knowledge exchange or research. Recognition and visibility of these mobilities.
- Encouragement of non-teaching staff mobility for training purposes. Recognition and visibility of these mobilities.
- Promotion of language study within the educational community.
- Active management of search for European partners and third countries with which to carry out international projects. The usual way of proceeding in the search for partners is through personal contacts of VIU staff that have allowed to detect an identity of principles and interests with other European institutions.
- Updating of the course catalog and its dissemination.
- Quality. The VIU Erasmus Mobility Procedure is subject to the annual ISO 9001 audit. Internationality is therefore an essential part of the strategy of VIU. Our university is very focused on international objectives, modernization and an ethical, global and inclusive concept of university development. In this sense, contact with higher education institutions in



the field of training has been increasing since its foundation. Our most recent institutional agreements are with educational centers in England, Italy, Denmark, the United States, Mexico, Morocco, France, Qatar and Colombia, among others.

Since 2009, an increase in the connection with international students has been gradually carried out, especially through some of our degrees such as the Master in Musical Interpretation and Research, with around a 10% of International students, who are empowered to attend the master classes of the degree and the end of Master recitals. Since 2014, the presence of international students has increased greatly, both from the European Union and from Latin America, since the innovative online technology of the offer of face-to-face classes in an audiovisual way allows a different approach to connecting these areas. Europe is the geographical area in which our university is immersed, but Latin America, for cultural, historical and linguistic reasons, is a close space. A wide range of countries in the Mediterranean and the Middle East are also of great interest to our institution, which has established agreements with institutions in Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.

Since 2017, the Erasmus+ programme has been implemented with the signing of interinstitutional agreements with different universities in programme countries, for example: France, the United Kingdom, Belgium or Italy. This has made possible the flow of students, teaching staff and administration and service staff, who have carried out stays in these countries, as well as people from foreign institutions who have come to train at our university.

These strategic associations are signed with institutions that share common interests in research and in providing educational pathways that are compatible (in terms of discipline) with those offered by the VIU. There are up to 40 international agreements developed by our institution, which seeks to partner to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and provide increasing opportunities for physical and virtual mobility to students (through our platform, which is offered as a means of exchanging experiences and deepening to the centers whose agreements have been established with).

The fact that at the VIU in 2020 there are students of 72 different nationalities among the more than 12,000 students confirms the path we have taken in this new stage, and in which we are determined to go deeper. Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Poland, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Morocco or Kuwait are countries from which our global students come, and in which we have our mobility specified.

Linguistic, pedagogical and cultural training, tutoring, evaluation and monitoring measures are some of the key points of the guidelines of our institution in relation to mobility. The choice of new partners for the development of common projects will be made through a selection process based on shared competences. The procedure is based on the real skills that students can achieve in institutions or work centers (in the case of internships). A broad institutional agreement could be established on those grounds.

In the VIU great importance is given to the mobility of teachers and staff, as a tool for acquiring knowledge and exchanging experiences among colleagues from the same specialties. This is especially appropriate to share experiences between an audiovisual university like ours and universities with similar systems, and also with blended systems, to share joint developments and projects that bear fruit in shared research and development experiences. The VIU does not currently have degrees or master's degrees developed



jointly with universities in Europe or America, but it plans to carry out its work in this regard, including seeking a joint doctorate. In this sense, the Vice-Rector's Office for Research and Knowledge Transfer has been created, which is promoting teaching collaboration with professors from other foreign universities.

