

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

VIST Faculty of applied sciences implements 1st and 2nd cycle programmes Cosmetics and Photography - only ones of a kind in Slovenia. In the development of those programmes, we had many international cooperations and we managed to modernise and adapt European educational systems by introducing a new, modern higher school studies.

Lifelong learning is one of the key policies of the 21st century, so it was included in our long-term plans. Our main objectives of Erasmus activities are:

- to support of modernisation and internalisation of higher education,
- to promote student and teaching staff mobility throughout Europe,
- to improve multilateral co-operation between higher education (HE) institutions in Europe and the degree of transparency and compatibility between HE qualifications gained in Europe,
- to promote cooperation between HE institutions and enterprises,
- to facilitate the development of innovative practices in education and their transfer,
- to develop and further improve programmes based on international cooperation,
- to run international mobilities of the staff in EU and non-EU countries for efficient exchange of knowledge and experiences which is further transferred to students,
- to develop cooperation with all relevant HEI in EU and non-EU countries with ECHE,
- to develop efficient monitoring the granting of Erasmus recognition,
- to develop international cooperation as a basis for further research projects.

Our policy continues by: implementing educational projects and the recognition of professional qualification; training lecturers and students abroad (acquisition of new knowledge and skills), improving all the participants in the education and learning process (expansion, deepening...of previous knowledge); collecting ideas, experience and research; cooperating with other European institutions; promoting connections and exchange by developing new partnerships and networks; sharing professional experience involving lecturers and students from Slovenia and abroad.

We collaborate with renown Slovene and foreign experts. We have cooperation with several foreign institutions, every year several visiting lecturers give lectures to our students as well as our lecturers give lectures at institutions abroad. As all our programmes are the only one in their field in Slovenia, it is crucial to have collaboration with institutions with similar programmes abroad to share experiences, ideas and knowledge on European level. We believe that mobility of teaching staff as well as students is crucial for improvement of quality. The result will be well educated cosmeticians and photographers with broad theoretical and practical knowledge and skills required to meet the modern standards and demands. This will result in improved quality of services offered to clients, better chance of self-employment, teamwork and high professional mobility.

Our target groups for mobilities are:

- lecturers and technical staff
- experts from practice
- students in first- and second-degree cycle – outgoing or incoming students for study

Our partners will be chosen based on:

- participation of higher education institution in Erasmus activities – only HEI with awarded ECHE;
- running similar educational projects;
- running activities or projects in the fields that are relevant for our staff or students.

All relevant groups will be informed about the Erasmus University Charter in several ways:

- It will be published on our web site and exhibited in a visible place in the students' office so that it can easily be seen by our students and lecturers;
- we will inform our present and future students about Erasmus activities, and relevant issues concerning them, by means of informative brochures or intranet;
- in organised meetings with students and staff;
- by means of various types of advertising.

We will take care of high-quality education and training of our lecturers, mentors and students, including those coming from abroad. For foreigners preparatory and refresher language courses can be organised. We will take care of the participants in Erasmus projects in several ways:

We will assist lecturers, mentors and students in the organisation of projects, we will supply information, help them to find accommodation, mentors and tutors, and assist them in the process of learning foreign languages or improving their language skills.

We will ensure that our guest participants receive all relevant documents necessary for their education and training in Slovenia. We will participate in mentorship, tutorship and supervision (experts employed at our institution). We shall do our best to introduce to the participants our culture, language and sites of special interest. We will offer individual counselling when necessary.

With mobilities of students and staff we attend to achieve:

1. Increased attainment levels by:

- improving recognition of prior learning and experience
- outreach to under-represented groups with guidance and targeted financial support
- reducing drop-out with more tailored ways and mechanisms for individual groups

The basis will be analysis of drop-out and further improvements in mechanisms for recognition of skills and experiences.

2. Improved quality and relevance by improving employability of our students with:

- further development of programmes in otherwise educationally not well covered fields
- proper tailoring of learning modes to a diverse student body
- adapting programmes to market needs

We will manage that by research into graduate employability and their skills and research among current and potential employers about their expectations.

3. Improved mobility & international co-operation for quality: for efficient recognition of studies abroad we will strengthen and further promote ECTS system.

4. Strengthening the “knowledge triangle” by:

- stimulating entrepreneurial and creative skills of our students and staff,
- encouraging partnership and co-operation with business in the form of research projects or author projects for industry and market in which our staff of students will be included,
- there is already great impact of our HEI in regional development in the fields of cosmetics and photography, as we are pioneers in education and research development in those fields, and we wish to improve that in future.

5. Creating the right governance and funding conditions with sufficient, efficient and well-targeted funding and effective governance and funding systems, with analysis of impact of funding models when needed.

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