

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the

goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The University of Basilicata (UNIBAS) strongly supports the European principles of Modernisation and Internationalisation for Higher Education under the aegis of the 17 Goals of Sustainable Development. In particular, high quality education standards, the reduction of inequalities and the pursue of gender balance, decent work and economic growth together with the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is a crucial for the realization of our institutional plans, strategies and ambitions.

Through its international research networks, UNIBAS pursues innovation and sustainable development by educating students to exercise critical thinking, while paying particular attention to the cultural, economic and social development of the communities in which it participates.

Higher education represents a powerful tool for intellectual and cultural growth of communities and a relevant contribution to the world wealth as well as to the development of international excellence through the creation of exchange researchers networking and high-quality teaching allowing inclusive academic culture.

UNIBAS, even thanks to its small size, is making a deep effort to serving students, scholarships and society by carrying out research activities aimed at enhancing innovation and sustainable development. According with the EHEA principles and tools, our main purposes deal with enhancing pivotal thought, to shape brilliant professionalisms by exposing them to competitive environments at both national and international levels providing new-fangled knowledges with a positive impact on our local communities.

The recent experience gained during the preparation and management phases of Matera 2019 European Capital of Culture, has properly endorsed our international policy which plays a key role in furthering knowledge and preparing our students for professional and personal achievements in both national and international work settings, fostering social cohesion from a global perspective. In pursuing these goals, our University has invested relevant resources and efforts to consolidate, strengthen and support internationalization and international cooperation aimed at promoting the mobility of both students and staff, supporting exchange and work abroad as well as student recruitment, developments in teaching and learning, methodologies, collaborative research and capacity building. In other words, international cooperative partnership is a core element of our broader strategic objectives regarding teaching, learning and research.

Many of our partnerships result from individual links between academic staff, researcher, teacher, and administrative staff, deriving from existing partnerships or other networks related to international projects.

As a result, the exchange agreements with universities in both EU and extra-EU countries have increased in the last years. Equally positive are data relating to incoming and outgoing mobility (of students, teachers, and administrative staff), double or joint degree programs (first and second cycle degree programs and PhD programs), participation in university networks, collaboration with research centres, and 'third mission' outcomes (as both knowledge based economy - i.e. technology transfer - and public engagement). Such a strengthening of the international mobility initiatives undertaken has favored the acquisition, improvement and transfer of specific competences and abilities as well as the exchange of good practices, and contributed to the personal and professional development of the participants. Students have benefited from these opportunities in terms of their chances of entering the labour market, as reported by the recent ALMALAUREA survey.

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

UNIBAS recognizes diversity, equity and inclusion as statutory values and, aware of its role, it is constantly concerned with promoting diffusion in the areas of research, administration, learning and teaching activities. As a first measure, adopted to protect equal opportunities and to ensure inclusive and caring work environments, the Committee Unique of Guarantee (CUG) was instituted on 2013. The Committee was called by the European normative to extend the areas of control on gender discrimination to occupational safety, ethnicity, religion, nationality, age, disability, sexual identity or any other condition that could give rise to discrimination among people who work and study at university. One of the responsibilities of CUG is to formulate a three-year plan of positive actions to pursue real opportunities for the university community (<http://cug.unibas.it/site/home.html>).

Furthermore, to promote civic engagement and active citizenship UNIBAS supports the social and practical integration of incoming students by providing hospitality and a consulting service that goes from supporting in finding accommodation, to tutoring and organizing cultural and recreational events (Erasmus orientation day, welcome Erasmus week etc.). This service helps to integrate the foreign student in our local university and in our local environment and host society. All those activities are important not only for the incoming students but also for our local students/staff and community members as well, as they help to overcome prejudice, lead to the acceptance of cultural diversity and mutual respect, and ensure internationalization at home. UNIBAS also relies on student associations (in particular ESN-Erasmus Student Network Basilicata (<https://unibas.esn.it/>; <https://www.facebook.com/Esn.SuiGeneris/>) and both student and staff volunteers who become an assigned 'buddy' to each incoming student to help him/her to settle in during the first mobility period of stay. Moreover, UNIBAS encourages and support mobile participants upon return to act as ambassadors of mobility, by promoting the benefits of mobility and sharing their experiences further with students interested in the exchange experience. Thus, to ensure better social integration, particular attention should be paid to learning the local language, whether or not it is the language of instruction, and UNIBAS provides Italian language courses for all incoming students.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

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The Erasmus Programme will assist University of Basilicata in fulfilling future objectives to engage in both European and non-European strategic partnerships and will offer us a framework to both strengthen established links and to initiate new ones. Participation in activities under the Programme will help UNIBAS's mission to offer students an education of the highest possible quality and allow them to graduate with competencies which are in demand on the labour market both in Italy and abroad. It will also allow for the university to be involved in critical, open and innovative interaction process with international actors which might be a key motor for smart growth and creating value. Furthermore, from the current position, UNIBAS aims to further improve the quality and level of activity of its research and degrees for the next years. In order to realize this ambition, it is vital to provide the necessary flexibility and freedom for its research activities and teaching services. In such a view, the following the objectives of the latest Strategic Plan of UNIBAS (2019-2021) and based on the successful results obtained during the 2013-2020 E+, the participation and continuation into the Erasmus Programme aims to further develop and improve full integration between research, higher education and modernization creating added values for our university community based on the following main issues:

1. develop and increase scientific cooperation with EU and non-EU Institutions and research organizations in order to work together by investigating common research issues and to strengthen the International Space of Education and Research;
2. encourage, promote and create teaching/research networks to increase student and staff mobility;

3. strengthen/create/encourage and promote the development of international double and joint degree, Ph.D., and master programs, including foreign language courses;
4. strengthen scientific and educational collaborations with EU and non-EU institutions through both expansion of existing agreements and international research projects, as well as start-up of international Ph.D. and masters;
5. strengthen/create/encourage and promote agreements with foreign institutions of excellence concerning smart community, environment and resources protection, sustainability and quality of life, agrifood and agroforestry, systems, and others issues, in order to increase the international appeal (prestige/reputation/ranking) of UNIBAS and build up synergic actions related to high quality educational programs;
6. involve excellence in public and private institutions (such as companies, laboratories, professional offices) as partners in international placement activities.

Through the interaction of International Athenaeum Committee and the International Mobility Office we would further encourage the development of initiatives and projects, disseminating information about new opportunities and promoting good practice in all aspects of our international operations and strategy focusing on the Erasmus Programme opportunities. We will actively disseminate across the institution and to our local community and beyond, examples of the outcomes and benefits of our international partnership activity. At the same time, we will also demonstrate our strong institutional commitment to equality of opportunity as well as the deep involvement in the third-mission, offering additional financial assistance to those students from disadvantaged backgrounds, which would like to catch the E+ smart opportunities for cultural and community growth. We already have successfully made arrangements with partner institutions to enable students with disabilities to participate in Erasmus exchange and we will continue to willing for it. We will strongly build on our experience to enhance and develop inclusive policies and practice in regard to all aspects of mobility.

We expect to focus primarily on the development of selected existing partnerships and to extend their scope so that they contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education, for example, by developing relationships with other key stakeholders and/or cross-sector cooperation. In order to realize these objectives, we will engage in more strategic and sustainable relationships based on deeper mutual understanding of our capabilities, capacity and priorities.

Moreover, in order to promote student and staff participation in the Erasmus Programme E+, following the actions recently undertaken, UNIBAS would provide further financial support (as already done in past) in addition to the Erasmus mobility grant and has also entirely funded the mobility of students, teachers, and administrative staff whenever no other resource was available. This was done by using the University own funds and those made available by the Italian Ministry for Education. Moreover, the University has funded students attending double/joint or multiple degree programs abroad. Furthermore, to ensure the automatic recognition of all credits achieved during the study/training period abroad, UNIBAS linked all the information of its course description to the "Course Catalogue". Based on the Italian regulation, courses description must satisfy a series of mandatory requirements. Among these there are: course ECTS number, course Campus and Semester, the educational goals and expected learning outcomes, pre-requirements, the syllabus, teaching and evaluation methods, textbooks and on-line educational material, professor's interaction with students and the plan of examination sessions. The UNIBAS provides all of such information to its students at least one semester in advance providing a suitable support for their study/training period planning. University of Basilicata, in agreement with its Quality Assurance Policy, will guarantee the same quality standards for all the students.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2

action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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Mobility of academic and administrative staff is a priority for effective partnership relationship management, support of cooperation projects, professional training, teaching delivery and Programme Erasmus development. In this context we created opportunities for joint delivery of Master's Programme and fostering scientific and research co-operation with partners from both participating and non-participating countries as well as we promote international scholarship programme to enforce collaboration and sharing values.

The UNIBAS mobility fluxes have increased by 30% in the period 2016-2018, which testifies to effectiveness of the contributions made by the University to that purpose. In more detail, the mobility increase has been quite remarkable as shown by the following trends: +12% in 2017 (base 2016 with 142 total fluxes) and +18% in 2018 (base 2017) with 128 mobility for study, 21 for traineeship, 26 STA and 11 STT. Moreover, there has been an increase of inter-institutional agreements showing that University of Basilicata is able to cover almost all the disciplinary fields included in its study programs.

In order to promote student mobility, indeed, UNIBAS has also organized dissemination events with a focus on the positive impact that an Erasmus+ experience can have at both personal and professional level and on the results achieved so far. On these occasions, the UNIBAS has hosted projects by other institutions in which the University staff has been involved and welcomed students' unions such as ESN SuiGeneris Basilicata.

Similarly, it is of crucial importance to UNIBAS that its students develop a global outlook, intercultural understanding and language skills. All students at the University should have the opportunity to include in their study program a period of study or training abroad that provides full credit transfer. In such a view we deal with the selecting criteria for application which allow student from the second year to take part to the Erasmus+ Program. The UNIBAS offers professional guidance in connection with the planning of a stay abroad and continues its efforts to establish a smooth process for preliminary approvals and credit transfers of study components completed at a foreign university.

Furthermore, UNIBAS continuously endeavors to increase the incentives for international mobility of the university's PhD students and academic staff. This is ensured through a focus on international experience when recruiting visiting professors and researchers. Our PhD degree Programmes include Erasmus + periods of study abroad for the longest possible term (no shorter than 6 months).

In addition, the recent tragic event of Covi19 pandemic, has accelerated the dematerialization processes (without paper) for both administrative and educational fields, creating the prerequisite and the demand requirement to be supplied through online courses and/or blended learning.

Acknowledging the vital role played by foreign language skills in enhancing internationalization and facilitating cultural integration, UNIBAS provides financial incentives for students to attend foreign language courses abroad. In addition, the University Language Centre offers foreign and Italian language courses for outgoing and incoming students as well.

It is worth highlighting that the initiatives and actions mentioned above have been made possible thanks to the hardworking and competent staff of the International Mobility Office. All of them have worked with dedication and passion, always foregrounding the needs of students, teachers, and administrative staff.

The UNIBAS has established an administrative unit to help incoming and outgoing students and academic staff handle all necessary practical, logistic and legal challenges connected to stays at university or postings abroad (International Relations Division - International Mobility Office, International Cooperation and Research Office).