

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

Frederick University (FredU) is a private University that resides in Nicosia, the capital city of Cyprus, a small island at the Eastern Mediterranean region in the edge of Europe. It considers international collaborations central to its advancement and sustainability since these international collaborations, enhance greatly the number of students enrolled at the University from overseas.

Participation to the ERASMUS+ Programme is expected to have a considerable contribution to Frederick University's (FredU) internationalisation and modernisation strategy.

Firstly, it is expected that participation, through enabling student mobility, will result in increased attraction of students and increased retention ratios. This is because providing the opportunity to students to conduct part of their studies to another EU or third country, will increase the attractiveness of programs and will act as an additional incentive to engage and remain within higher education.

The impact in quality improvement is also expected to be substantial. Through faculty mobility and participation in international programs.

Furthermore, faculty members will gain invaluable experiences through exposure to students and educational systems of other member states. This experience, as well as the interaction with colleagues from other Universities, will invariably improve teaching and research. Moreover, with student mobility programs and mobility for placement, our students will greatly improve their core competences and contribute in high-skill occupations. Additionally, through programs where collaborating Universities develop new programs of study, especially those involving the use of ICT, such as eLearning, it is expected that the University will further advance in the use, adoption and provision of such technologies within its operations, thus providing the society access to further forms of learning.

Given that Cyprus is a small island, by providing students with opportunities to study or train abroad additional skills will be gained and participation will encourage cross-border cooperation between individuals as well as educational organisations, thus boosting education performance. The acquisition of the ECTS Label by Frederick University further promotes this goal as it makes it even easier to transfer credits gained in European educational institutions.

Frederick University fully understands the importance of strengthening the links between education, research and business as this triangle is key to innovation and overall advancement of society. Participation in the Programme further strengthens the University efforts towards the above mentioned goal. The use of Preparatory Visits as well as faculty mobility will allow for stronger ties between academics on research and education and will enhance relationships with the industry and business world in Europe and abroad, assisting higher education and business cooperation. In addition, through participation in IP programmes, stronger ties will emerge between academics and, most importantly, students at senior level of studies from different countries who can then be expected to utilize the strengths of their varying backgrounds and engage in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Finally, increasing through participation the University's involvement in funded projects is expected to improve the governance system of such projects and increase effectiveness.

Moreover, Frederick University considers participation in ERASMUS+ program as an important factor for enhancing the quality of its research and teaching activities as well as students welfare. Its strategic objective is, through the implementation of ERASMUS+ policy, to improve its core operations of providing educational programs that address contemporary societal needs and conduct basic and applied research of the highest calibre.

Frederick University, residing in Cyprus, which is an island with a relatively small population, considers international collaborations and mobility central to its advancement. To this end, ERASMUS+ actions are sought in the following directions:

- a. Collaborations in research projects
- b. Collaborations in the development of new joint programs of study, especially at second and third cycle and in the use of state-of-the-art technologies in teaching and learning.
- c. Collaborations for mobility of students, faculty and administrative staff
- d. Collaborations for participation in training programs and linking and interacting with business
- e. Collaborations for the development and participation of short/intensive programs

The University actively pursues collaborations with all institutions that could contribute on the above directions. Indeed, it holds collaborations with hundreds of universities, research centres, governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as businesses in all continents. The majority of collaborations are made with institutions in the European Union.

Frederick University already undertakes student and staff mobility programs with over 200 institutions across 40 countries in the world and participates in a large number of EU and non EU funded projects. Mobility is particularly important in promoting knowledge flows and ensuring a diverse and highly skilled workforce that has the capacity to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges. The University is therefore committed to offering more study and placement mobility opportunities to students, primarily to first cycle students.

Partners are usually chosen after proposals from academic departments and are rectified after the final approval of the University's Erasmus Committee. Priority is given to universities wishing collaboration for both students and teachers. The University maintains a policy of diversifying its collaborations under the Erasmus Programme, as long as a common ground on offered academic programs of study exists. Partner universities come from various European and worldwide geographical areas. It also has bilateral agreements with all 5 continents in terms of mobility and research activity.

Highest priority is given on student and placement mobility of first cycle students, followed by teacher mobility and second and third cycle student mobility. Also, significant emphasis is given on establishing collaborations between departments for the development of IP programmes which often lead to stronger ties between students and institutions.

As mentioned, Frederick University assigns substantial importance to the development of joint/double degrees and the Erasmus Programme plays a central role in this effort. Through continuing participation in the Erasmus Virtual Campus Programme, Frederick University can engage in collaborations with other Universities for designing and delivering joint degrees, a practice with well-established benefits for the participants. Furthermore, such programs often entail the use of state-of-the-art ICT tools for teaching and learning that further improve the offered teaching service of the University.

Finally, collaborations with third countries are also high on the international policy of the University as Cyprus resides on the easternmost boarder of Europe

ERASMUS+ activities will help both students and staff to gain transversal skills and to learn through their experience abroad, hence investing on their personal growth and development. Specifically, students will:

- (a) learn how to be more confident and to stand out from the crowd,
- (b) learn foreign languages, and
- (c) develop computer, research and communication skills, etc.

These learning tools gained through this mobility programme will help them enhance their employment as alumni and will assist them to be employed easier than the non-mobile students, since most of the employers seek for an international profile from a candidate. Similarly, through the mobility exchange, FredU students on campus will benefit from the interaction of incoming students from the Partner Institution, as this will expand the University's student community and will enrich the University's life with their different experiences, cultures, languages and perspectives.

FredU faculty members will also benefit greatly from experiences in different educational settings and will get the chance to develop links with faculty members from the Partner Institution through exchanging knowledge on teaching methodologies and research matters.

Although the establishment of the University is relatively recent in 2007, the organisation has a long history of more than 50 years in higher education.

The University, enjoying respect and recognition both nationally and internationally, offers a broad range of academic programs of study in the areas of Science, Engineering, Business, Arts, Architecture, Media, Humanities, Health, and Education. The University has a strong focus on academic research, being one of the leading research organizations in the country.

Frederick University has been actively promoting student and staff mobility throughout Europe and abroad since 2007. Mobility is particularly important in promoting knowledge flows and ensuring a diverse and highly skilled workforce that has the capacity to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges. The University is therefore committed to offering more study and placement mobility opportunities to students, primarily to first cycle students.

Today, FredU. has approximately 200 active Bilateral Agreements with European and non-European universities across 40 countries in the world in the frame of ERASMUS+ and participates in a large number of EU and non EU funded projects. The number of the Bilateral Agreements is expected to increased significantly duo to the opportunities for collaboration with non EU countries and research centres.

For the last 13 years, Frederick University implement more than 400 students mobility for studies or placement and more than 300 staff mobility for training or teaching assignment. For the upcoming program period, the university has a policy in place to increase the participation of students and staff mobility as well as the implementation of 10 KA2 and KA3 programs every 2 years. More specifically, the university is committed to send 15 students for studies every semester and 40 students for placements every year, giving emphasise to the graduate students. In addition, 20 staff members per year, are expected to participate and benefit from the program.

In addition, in cooperation with the IT department at Frederick University, in the next 2 years, we are expecting to develop online tools and platforms for nominations and applications for the incoming students.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme has a great envisaged impact at Frederick University because it will manage to:

- (a) Enhance its international dimension
- (b) Foster quality improvements and innovation excellence
- (c) Gave the chance to the graduates to gain their first working experience abroad. Offer free language courses to its students and graduates through the Online Linguistic Support
- (d) Increase the Partner list, (with Higher Education Institutions and offices/companies)
- (e) Improve the level of key competences and skills, by straightening the cooperation with

the labor market.

All the above mentioned, have also great impact on the holistic internationalisation and modernisation strategy.

Frederick University's Mobility office always provide all the necessary assistance related to obtaining visas, insurance and finding an accommodation, to all the incoming students. Moreover, all the student mobility participants, both incomings and outgoings, are well prepared for the necessary linguistic preparation. Outgoing student participants take the Linguistic Assessment and when is necessary, the linguistic course.

On the other hand, all the incoming students can attend Greek Language Lessons which are offered for free by Frederick University. Also, all the activities of the mobility participants were clearly mentioned on the participants Learning Agreement or Staff Mobility Agreement and the Mobility Office provide support arrangements for all the mobile participants.

The FredU Mobility Office, managed to create a very close and positive community among ex-Erasmus students and graduates and together they work closely, so as to promote the program and help other students and graduates of the University, who wish to participate.