

UNIVERSITY OF MÁLAGA (E MALAGA01)

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

1.

The University of Malaga has approved its own Internationalization Strategy (IS) for EU and non-EU countries with the main objective of increasing the international promotion of the institution through a broader international orientation of teaching and research activities while focusing on the transfer of knowledge to the productive sector. The implementation of this policy enhances an multi-level approach to the management of all the structures and collectives of the University.

In order to attain this strategic objective it is essential to promote international mobility and cooperation, especially highlighting the role of the Erasmus Program and the EU Agenda for the Modernization and Internationalization of Higher Education in the achievement of institutional objectives. The IS is based on a regulating framework which guarantees equality of opportunities, academic and professional recognition and exemption from payment of enrollment fees for incoming mobility students.

Partners are carefully selected according to a detailed analysis based on a series of parameters: previous cooperation, institutional profiles, geographical diversity, prospective synergies, excellence, technical capacity, complementarity, etc. Priorities include: long-term alliances, stable, balanced, proactive and efficient international networks, as well as agreements with institutions fully committed to the objectives of the EU Agenda for the Modernization and Internationalization of Higher Education.

Regarding the selection of geographical areas, UMA undertakes a logical process of analysis in which the balance between opportunities and risks for the internationalization of the institution is assessed. The areas in which the institution has the closest links are the EU, Latin America and Northern Africa. The process of geographical diversification recently initiated has fostered the cooperation with North America, Asia, especially South Korea and China, and Oceania. UMA takes this strategy of diversification a bit further exploring new relationships with universities in countries of special geostrategic interest in Asia, Oceania and Southern Africa.

UMA is characterized by a strong multidisciplinary approach regarding its academic offer with a wide range of study programs (undergraduate and master degrees; PhD and research programs) in numerous areas: Life Sciences, Health Sciences, Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences. Particularly relevant are the International Excellence Campus of "Andalucía Tech" (A-Tech) targeted thematic areas: Information and Communication Technologies, Production Technologies and Biotechnology. The relevance of these fields fosters A-Tech

visibility and increases the international interest for A-Tech areas which is the reason they represent an important role in our strategy of internationalization. Nevertheless, all the areas of study are supported by our IS policy.

The mobility activities of UMA focus on three basic groups:

Students. The aim is to significantly increase the capacity to attract incoming students, especially in second and third cycle, as well as the quality of the services provided to this group. Another priority is to boost outgoing mobility by setting up agreements with a range of high-profile academic and scientific destinations to strengthen the quality of the mobility experience and to improve employability. In this sense, priority is given to outgoing placement mobility. UMA also intends to increase the participation of groups usually under-represented in the Program (e.g., people with disabilities, degrees with low participation in the Erasmus Program, etc.).

Academic staff. Development of the international dimension of the teaching skills of our academic staff through teaching and training mobility actions is seen as a goal of the utmost importance. Increasing the participation of international staff in UMA teaching activities is considered as a priority.

Non-academic staff. Contemplated as part of the policy to foster quality management and training of non-academic staff, language and international competences related skills are highly promoted. Non-academic staff are encouraged to participate in the program mobility activities. Activities that involve international exchange of good practice experiences are considered as a key benefit for the institution.

The University of Malaga participates in the development of double, multiple and joint degrees, undertaking an analysis based on the following criteria: complementarity of the academic offer of the participating institutions, quality and impact of the resulted new degree, legal and financial viability and sustainability. In this sense, second and third cycle degrees are prioritized.

2.

The Internationalization Strategy of the University of Málaga, based on a strategic assessment, includes amongst its key policies the participation in international cooperation projects, considering these projects as a tool of modernization and improvement of quality management.

The objectives pursued are the following:

- Contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Agenda for the Modernization of Higher Education in Europe.
- Establish a strategic network of international partners involving an intense, structured and long-term cooperation with higher education institutions and other public and private organizations.

- Increase the impact of the knowledge generated in the private sector.
- Encourage creativity, innovation and learning opportunities.
- Contribute to strengthen and enrich the capabilities of individuals and institutions.

The participation of UMA in international projects is performed under the principles of balance, sustainability, informed choice and transparency. In the selection of partners priority is given to the general policy of internationalization.

The institution offers various specific measures that represent a significant support for participants in activities of international cooperation:

- Technical and administrative support.
- Specific training activities for the application, management and execution of international projects.
- Language training activities.
- Financial support for the preparation and follow-up of projects.
- Financial contributions for the funding of events and networking.
- Recognition of participation in projects.
- Projects web pages hosting service.
- Computing technical service.
- Communication service (web, social networks, organization of events, etc.).

3.

The University of Malaga expects that its participation in the modernization programme contributes to the achievement of the political objectives that the institution has included in its own Internationalization Strategy:

1.To increase significantly the number of graduates of higher education at all levels, especially those in the third cycle, as well as the number of new researchers, while increasing its capacity for attracting students from other countries, in order to provide human capital to Europe, contributing to the multicultural development of the knowledge society and spreading the values of democracy and those of European Higher Education internationally.

2.To improve the quality of teaching at all educational levels in order to achieve a greater impact on learning of graduates and new researchers, stimulating the creation of a new

generation of highly-qualified professionals and academics of high scientific profile, more competitive internationally, holding the basic skills and abilities they need to succeed in today's society, with special emphasis on the capacity for innovation and generation of new knowledge, both basic and applied.

3.To strengthen and enrich the quality and overall performance of the university, and expand the opportunities provided to its staff, researchers and students for accessing specialized training, as well as for acquiring experiences, abilities and additional skills through short- and long-duration mobility actions, as well as through cross-border institutional cooperation by means of establishing multi-path channels both for exchange and for joint creation of knowledge.

4.To improve the mechanisms articulated by the university with the objective of strengthening the links between higher education, research and business as well as to increase its innovative impact on the social, cultural and economic development of the region through the internationalization of the so-called 'knowledge triangle', cross-border cooperation and the adoption of good practices identified by both European and international partners.

5.To increase excellence in institutional governance and day-to-day management through the implementation of more stringent planning, execution, control and follow-up procedures, allowing a quality improvement at all levels. Also, it is expected to improve the mechanisms and instruments aimed at attracting financial resources, especially those from the private sector, while intensifying the search for financial resources beyond national borders, stimulating competitiveness in the application for public funding as well as providing more resources to the initiatives of transfer of knowledge to the companies.