

## Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

### ***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

EASD Mestre Mateo's main objective is to provide to its students an education of the highest possible level. To get that we consider it is essential as well for them as for our teachers to make contact with another countries, therefore different contexts, techniques, points of view and ways to do and see things.

We think that international exchanges will help our students to become more proficient, as well as to be more eligible and employable once they are out in the world. Their possibilities to find a good job, both inside our own country borders and abroad increases substantially if they have had the experience of sharing their spaces, their lives, with people completely different to those whom they are used to.

This sharing of experiences makes possible a very rich exchange of knowledge and awareness. This knowledge transfer is another of our objectives in the support and promotion of international exchanges, not just for students but also for teachers. To explore the difference is basic for an effective development of skills and it brings with it actual personal, social and institutional improvements in every area.

We also aim to favor the creation of meeting points of some sort between institutions and companies placed in different countries as a way of growing and building something bigger. We'd like to promote the international character of our College getting in contact with other educational and teaching contexts that at the same time make easier the future mobility of the professionals we are training.

It is not a minor issue the city where EASD Mestre Mateo is placed. Santiago de Compostela is one of the more international destinations to people all over the world. We consider our College must necessarily be a part of this international tradition, not just for travellers but for students, teachers and any other person interested in culture, history or art. We like to think that we can provide to this old city a new spirit of creation and design, and help her to keep up with the pace of times. Help her to stay young.

This is the main reason why EASD Mestre Mateo doesn't have any geographical preference. Every European country has the same value for us. We have few partners so far, but they are all placed in different countries. We are interested in sending our students all over Europe because we think that any Institution can give them a big range of possibilities, no matter the geographical area they belong to. One of our most important objectives is to increase the number of our partners all over Europe so we can offer to our students and our teachers as many opportunities as we can.

To make the partner selection we search among those institutions which have similar studies to ours (Visual Arts, Fine Arts, Design), and at the same time which are able to offer some kind of complementary education, something different that cannot be offered in our own institution, so our students have the possibility to be in touch with different subjects and ways to teach and work. This gives them the opportunity to increase their education in every possible way: technical, linguistic, cultural and social.

In sum, the main aim of EASD Mestre Mateo is to bring to the world well prepared professionals who are able to face an unascertained reality and a changing environment. By giving them the opportunity to have an international studying experience we are sure we are providing them with more efficient tools to manage themselves in such uncertain future.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

EASD Mestre Mateo is not aimed at the present moment to organise cooperation projects by itself, apart from the obvious exception of the mobilities under Erasmus program. However, we don't rule out that in the future our institution could involve itself in the organization of some kind of international cooperation project.

On the other hand, EASD Mestre Mateo is willing to participate again in any sort of international project that our current or future partners in Europe may organise, such as meetings, exhibitions, courses or conferences, as we already did in the past in several occasions (before and after having Erasmus charter). We are open to collaborate in any project that can bring to our students and teachers the opportunity to share experiences and to transfer knowledge.

As it has been said above, EASD Mestre Mateo already have been invited to participate in some Erasmus international meetings organised by several of our Erasmus partners which were really enriching experiences, in terms both academic and social. This kind of international experiences are always stimulating as well for teachers as for students and we would like to see them happen again.

Finally, EASD Mestre Mateo intends to apply for a membership to some of the more prestigious School of Arts Associations, such as Cumulus or ELIA, mainly because we consider that this kind of association is essential to get our international objectives, to achieve more proficient collaborations as well as to find partners in order to increase the mobility offer to our students and teachers.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Quoting the Commission document about European higher education modernisation agenda, "The reform and modernisation of Europe's higher education depends on the competence and motivation of teachers". We think that as important as this is the motivation of students. In EASD Mestre Mateo we think that international experience and sharing is fundamental to keep our students and teachers motivation at the highest possible level.

In these difficult times we are trying to build an Europe bigger and stronger, and we don't think this is possible without this process of implementation and modernisation of our higher education institutions. In a global world which main tendency is to share and grow wider, an institution such as ours cannot work out its increasing quality without looking out to the rest of Europe and the rest of the world, use and promote the transfer of knowledge and the exchange of people and ideas.

We think that international mobility is going to affect very positively in the process of training the professionals Europe need and will be needing in the future. Young people who is ready to face new challenges everywhere they go, and also who is willing to keep on studying and researching. This will bring to higher education institutions, and especially to EASD Mestre Mateo, the improvement of quality that is one of the European Union main goals. EASD Mestre Mateo is very concerned about contributing to this improvement, given that a big effort is always made of a combination of different kinds of energies put together.

EASD Mestre Mateo, in its pursuit of the improvement of governance and funding of international mobilities, will try to involve its closest leading companies in the different sectors (Product Design, Fashion Design, etc.) in its students mobilities, so it becomes possible to achieve an effective collaboration with them, in order, among other goals, to provide our students actual job opportunities after they have finished their studies.

In conclusion, we believe that Erasmus program is called to be one of the most important tools to achieve this goal of excellence and prestige to our College. European higher education institutions have been left behind by other institutions from other parts of the world, by the market and probably by reality itself, and probably our institution is far from being an exception to this. Giving our teachers and students the chance of living this experience we put them in a very forward position to help European education map reach the leading position Europe deserves, and at the same time provides the institution itself the possibility of becoming an example of modernity and adaptation to a new and wider environment.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)