

Representation of students within the 4EU+ Alliance

Agreed upon at the student conference in Copenhagen the 24th - 25th of October 2019, by the students of the University of Sorbonne, University of Milan, Charles University, Heidelberg University, University of Warsaw, and the University of Copenhagen.

As the students of the 4EU+ Alliance we see it natural that we are represented within bodies that work with aspects of our education and student life. We wish that the different bodies of the alliance strive to ensure an equal gender balance. When students are to appoint at least two students from each university, they must strive for an equal gender balance if it is possible. We also suggest that the academic and technical staff try to achieve gender balance. What constitutes a 'student' is to be defined by the single member university depending on their definition and who they represent.

It is important that all bodies as a main rule are open, meaning that all documents, summaries, and other material is public and available to all the members of the 4EU+ Alliance.

Academic council:

- At least six students with one member from every university.
- If the academic personal has more than six representatives the students are to have an equal number of representatives.
- The students are to elect a vice chair of the academic council among their members.
- The academic council is to be informed and involved in discussions in the advisory board.

Governing board:

- The students are to have one seat as vice chair in the governing board to ensure the good cooperation between rectors and students.
- The student is to be appointed by the students of the academic council.

Management committee:

- There are to be two student members in the management committee with full voting rights.
- The students are to be appointed by the students of the academic council.

Working Group Students:

- Every university should have at least one student in the WG.
- The WG is to have a sub group working with the PhD-students.
- The WG is to be the center of the coordination for the student representatives in the remaining working groups.

Working Group Education:

- At least 50 % of the members of the group are to be students.
- The students are to be appointed by the WG Students.

Working Group Mobility:

- At least two members of the group are to be students.
- The students are to be appointed by the WG Students.

Working Group Communication & Support

- In each group, there should be one observatory position for students.
- The students are to be appointed by the WG Students.

Student visions for the 4EU+-Alliance

The universities in this alliance are among the best and most important in Europe. Therefore, we believe that the universities and this alliance have a responsibility to be a leading factor in moving society forward. This movement should be based on the values of sustainability, humanitarianism, and accessibility. By making interdisciplinary courses and programs in the areas of sustainable solutions and life, European life & law, European identity and the identity of being a European University we will move toward this goal.

Therefore, we suggest that:

- 4EU+ makes a public declaration of principles for the alliance
- Sustainability is to be a focus in all activities and climate compensation should be the norm
- Shared programs are to be centered around solving societal problems

The exchange of students is an essential part of this alliance. Therefore, it is important that the universities in the alliance work closely together in order to identify and remove barriers related to exchange between the universities and among these, the universities must ensure the recognition of ECTS from other universities and remove barriers related to this subject. It is important that the universities share all relevant information regarding exchange programs and opportunities. It is important that the universities employ student ombud that can help students who are stuck in an administrative system and to ensure their rights.

However, it is important to note that there are other problems that can hinder proper exchange opportunities. It must be ensured that there is proper housing for students on exchange that also covers students going on shorter exchange programs, i.e. for a two-week period. A model with the possibility to do dorm switching when students go on exchange could be a possibility.

It is also important to ensure that students can afford both transport to the city in which they are going on exchange and afford the transport in the city where they are on exchange. It is important that the alliance address the problem of differencing living costs in different nations. To break down the language barriers the universities must make available free language courses both for current students and 4EU+-alumni to make sure that the project of making a European identity is not limited to current students.

Therefore, we suggest that:

- The universities cooperate to identify and break down barriers related to exchange programs
- The universities employ student ombud in order to ensure students rights

- The alliance deals with the problems related to accommodation, travel and transport expenses, and supporting free language classes
- The alliance is to pay for train tickets if the travel can be done in less than 12 hours, and if the travel time is longer the alliance is to pay for plane tickets and climate compensate for these too

The universities are a powerhouse of knowledge and therefore it is important to ensure the sharing of resources between the universities. All students must have access to the labs, libraries, and resources of the other universities to ensure a proper corporation. This also gives the opportunity to share knowledge on different methods of teaching and course topics, which is something the alliance must take into consideration when developing shared courses. It is important that the alliance focus on creating a sense of being a part of the alliance. Therefore we suggest the creation and support of initiatives such as a European student card and events with a dedicated budget both in terms of science and education festivals and student events for the members of the alliance

It is also important that the universities share data regarding the evaluation of education and have a clear policy on quality assurance and grading across the universities. It is only natural that the Academic Council of the alliance is involved in this. The persons responsible for students with special needs on the different universities should also meet and make sure to share knowledge related to students with special needs in order to make accessible and inclusive universities.

The creation of a 4EU+-website for students should help archive the sharing of information and opportunities for students across the universities.

Therefore, we suggest that:

- Resources and data are shared among the universities in the alliance
- Accessibility and inclusiveness are to be an essential part of the alliance
- Information and opportunities for students in the alliance must be shared properly