

This statement is part of the ECHE application 2020

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

University of Copenhagen: An internationally oriented university

The University of Copenhagen (UCPH) is more internationally oriented than ever, and continues to be deeply committed to values such as democracy, equality and transparency.

It is one of the University's most important tasks to bring knowledge and new insights into play for the benefit of society and the world, which continue to inspire and challenge us with complex issues. Similarly, the University contributes to society's growth and welfare through its talented graduates and valuable scientific discovery and innovation. The better a university is, the greater its societal impact. Against this background, UCPH has a vision to be among the world's best universities measured by the quality of our research and education.

The University's graduates and research environments must be prepared in the best possible way to be part of a globalised and digitalised future where research and innovation are essential to creating growth and welfare and to finding solutions to the societal challenges we are facing.

UCPH has an obligation to produce talented graduates for the job market both in Denmark and globally. The job market is increasingly seeking graduates who possess solid academic skills, an understanding of practice and the ability to collaborate across fields and borders.

UCPH sees a need to address a range of global challenges in areas such as climate, water, energy, health, migration, fake information and security. Growing digitalization, increasing internationalisation and the introduction of new technologies will affect markets, regulation and public expenditure, including research and education.

Important task: bring knowledge and new insights to help the surrounding society

The University has a responsibility to ensure the development of free and independent research and responsibility towards society's need for solutions and development. Based on its strong research communities, the University aims to utilize its academic resources to contribute to solving the challenges faced by Denmark, Europe and the rest of the world. An interdisciplinary and international approach will contribute to ensure excellent frontline research and provide graduates with qualifications that reflect the needs of the future.

UCPH's key development potential is amongst others:

- Continuing to develop an excellent, international work and study environment in order to attract and retain the best academic staff and students
- Leveraging the University's academic breadth more effectively through both internal and external collaboration in order to help resolve societal challenges
- Developing a digital organization and strengthening the digital skills of staff and students

International strategy: academic talent and societal commitment

The University of Copenhagen's international strategy is imbedded in the university's general strategy for 2023.

Two important corner stones in this strategy are:

1. Attracting, developing and retaining academic talent
2. Collaboration and societal commitment, nationally and globally.

A focus point is to ensure that the graduates from UCPH acquire international competences and a global outlook, just as students and academic staff should draw inspiration from the surrounding world and be equipped to contribute to a society undergoing rapid change.

International collaboration improves both research and education. It grants the university a better position in its efforts to secure national and international research funding and to recruit the best researchers and students - a focus in UCPH's 2023-strategy.

The world's leading universities recruit from and collaborate with the entire world. Therefore, it is imperative that we further enhance UCPH's international platform in order to live up to our ambition of increasing our international position further.

Participating actively in the Erasmus+ programme is a key part of this strategy.

Participating in the Erasmus+ programme: Building an European Education Area

The University of Copenhagen supports the Commissions initiatives to establish a European Education Area enabling all young people to benefit from the best education and training, and to find employment across Europe. UCPH acknowledges the key role played by education, youth and culture in building the future of Europe.

UCPH acknowledges the benefit to European higher education made possible by the Erasmus+ programme. UCPH fully agrees that investments in knowledge will benefit individuals, institutions, organizations and society as a whole by contributing to growth and ensuring equity, prosperity and social inclusion in Europe and beyond. A central pillar upon which these benefits must rest is an

internationalisation of education, and UCPH is therefore strategically working towards increasing the number of students who complete parts of their education abroad and the participation in international networks and projects.

In line with the objectives of the Erasmus+ programme, the University of Copenhagen firmly believes in the positive and long-lasting effects of student mobility, both on individuals, on institutions and ultimately on society in general.

The University of Copenhagen's official Strategy 2023 is furthermore aiming to ensure that the University enters into partnership agreements on research and education with the best universities and support that all study programmes have embedded an international dimension, such as the opportunity to study abroad.

Participation in the Erasmus+ programme

The University of Copenhagen has participated actively in the Erasmus+ programme since the programme was launched in 1987.

UCPH therefore has thorough knowledge and experience in participating in and implementing Erasmus actions both in regards to student and staff mobility within and outside EU, but also in regards to projects within Key Action 1, 2 and 3.

The University of Copenhagen recognizes the new principles and focus areas of the Erasmus Charter: Non-discrimination, Transparency, Inclusion, Digitalisation, Environment, Civic engagement and Active citizenship. These objectives are all imbedded in the 2023-strategy for UCPH which also aims to:

- Secure knowledge in partnerships: enter into partnership agreements on research and education with the best universities in the world
- Develop our dialogue and collaboration with businesses and other relevant players in order to expand an already high-caliber international innovations ecosystem
- Develop strong research environments and an organization that support academic staff members' intellectual creativity and provides opportunities to develop and test ideas
- Set up talent programmes in collaboration with external national and international partners
- Strengthen students' opportunities to obtain an interdisciplinary skills profile by removing structural barriers and increasing interdisciplinary and international collaboration on education
- Initiate development projects based on specific societal issues where different academic disciplines and collaboration partners contribute to resolving concrete challenges

- Increase our contribution to open science, including open access, open data and citizen science, as a focal point for increased global knowledge exchange

Investment in knowledge: dedicated to the international dimension of Erasmus+

The University of Copenhagen fully agrees that investments in knowledge will benefit individuals, institutions, organisations and society as a whole by contributing to growth and ensuring equity, prosperity and social inclusion in Europe and beyond.

A true internationalisation of education must however take into account all regions of the world. The University of Copenhagen is therefore firmly dedicated to the international dimension of the Erasmus+ programme (International Credit Mobility), both in terms of mobilities within the programme's Key Action 1, as well as in terms of cooperation within Key Action 2.

The University of Copenhagen has gradually increased the level of engagement within these actions and hopes to continue this ascent throughout the new programme period.

In the current Erasmus+ programme period University of Copenhagen is involved in several projects within Key Action 1, 2 and 3: Mobility, Strategic Partnerships, Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees and Jean Monnet-projects.

We aim to participate on the same level in the new Erasmus programme period.

The mobility of higher education students and staff

Exchanging ideas and engaging in joint activities with external collaborators makes it possible for UCPH to maintain the traditional focus on academic standards while offering our students a wider range of options. External partners often bring a tangible, problem-oriented dimension to the table, allowing students to experience the full synergy involved in relationship between complementary partners. Closer relationships between the University and other sectors will further enhance our ability to formulate and launch new initiatives and secure funding for them from external funding bodies.

Learning mobility helps individuals increase their professional, social and intercultural skills and employability. These are cornerstones of the internationalization and modernization of education and the main tool for the further development of the European Education Area.

To ensure a successful learning mobility the University of Copenhagen has throughout the years organized clearly defined activities - before, during and after mobility – within our organisation to be able to accommodate both inbound and outbound mobilities and to ensure the principles of the Erasmus Charter.

Internationalisation of education is not merely a matter of quantity, but likewise an issue of quality. The University of Copenhagen is therefore continuously striving towards enhancing the principles set out by the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. This includes preparing and guiding both inbound and outbound students; ensuring equal academic treatment as well as equal access and opportunities for all students; facilitating the integrating or reintegrating in Danish society for

international and national students; and enabling everyone to share their experience for the benefit of their peers, the University and society. For this reason, not only students on all cycles are encouraged to go on exchange. Both academic and administrative staff are likewise invited to spend time abroad, allowing them to enhance their skills and thus enabling the University of Copenhagen to improve the overall quality of internationalisation.

International competences and intercultural understandings are of paramount importance in the education of a qualified, global labour force. For that reason, the University of Copenhagen is committed to increasing the amount of exchange students by 3% annually toward 2023, using 2016 as our baseline.

Exchanges and internships within Europe play a large role in achieving this goal, and the University of Copenhagen upholds a wide range of bilateral partnerships across the continent. These partnerships are continuously scrutinized on parameters such as satisfactory level of activity, academic ability and strategic relevancy.

The University's graduates must also prepare for being part of a global reality in which international skills such as language proficiency, intercultural understanding and strong social skills are in demand. Therefore, the University will work to ensure that more students take advantage of the mobility window in the programmes to go on exchange to Universities abroad. Finally, it is important that the University continues its task of educating graduates within small programmes and language studies for the sake of businesses' future needs, society's future preparedness in a global arena and in order to ensure the food chain from primary schools and upper-secondary schools to universities and education of teachers for the entire sector.

Cooperation among organisations and institutions and support to policy development and cooperation

Under the Erasmus+ programme UCPH will enter into strategic partnerships to foster deep and long term partnerships. The university will continue to ensure consistency with the rest of the education system – primary and secondary schools and university colleges – in order to make the best use of society's total education resources. This includes student's transition between study and work life.

The University will build on its extensive collaboration with the outside world through increased dialogue and partnerships with knowledge-intensive organisations and businesses nationally and globally. The University will also continue its efforts to make research results generated at UCPH useful for the Danish society through commercialisation.

UCPH will use its research competences as a driving force for strategic focus and, in particular, for close private and public sector collaboration in areas such as sustainability, health, languages, media and innovation, to name but a few. We will pool our expertise across disciplines, enabling us to establish a clear profile that will be easily recognized by and be attractive to potential external partners. This way, we can more effectively create long-term strategic partnerships.

UCPH aims to improve the quality of our partnerships and our ability to integrate our results into research and education through the entire university.

The university aims to ensure the framework and conditions that promote interaction between basic research and societal and need-driven scientifically based innovation. This can be done by earmarking funds to promote problem-orientated projects that address major challenges facing contemporary society.

As an example of a long-term partnership, UCPH is a member of the 4EU+-alliance.

The alliance is funded under the Erasmus+ programme action for European Universities and consists of six universities: Charles University (Czech Republic), Heidelberg University (Germany), Sorbonne University (France), University of Warsaw (Poland), University of Milan (Italy) and the University of Copenhagen.

The 4EU+- alliance has one vision: to create a new quality of cooperation in teaching, education, research and administration. The cooperation is based on a common understanding of the idea of the European university that builds on academic freedom and autonomy and ensures fair access and participation in education.

To build this new kind of integrated European university system, the 4EU+ Alliance will focus on three challenges: Boost Meaningful Mobility, Increase inclusiveness and balance at a European level and Develop a common challenge-based framework for education.

Impact of participation in the Erasmus+ Programme

The University of Copenhagen's international strategy is part of the University's overall Strategy 2023. One of the corner stones of the strategy is to strengthen collaboration and societal commitment – nationally and globally. Many of the world's greatest challenges call for interdisciplinary collaboration. We focus more to utilizing knowledge across disciplines and sectors in collaboration with national and global knowledge-intensive institutions and businesses.

The Erasmus+ programme is an integral part of this strategy, as the programme offers opportunities to enter into partnership agreements on research and education with other leading international universities in Europa and beyond.

The Erasmus+ programme furthermore has a strong impact in these areas:

1) Quality of graduates: The University of Copenhagen is continuously aiming to reduce the drop-out rates, as well as the time it takes to complete a degree. The university is furthermore fully committed to upholding the highest standard of education, in order to attract the most talented students and staff. The University of Copenhagen thus believes that quantity must go hand in hand with quality.

2) Quality and relevance of Higher Education: The University of Copenhagen is dedicated to providing the highest quality of education, and firmly believes that an international component forms part of such high quality. The University of Copenhagen thus continues to encourage students and staff to spend time abroad, an objective of which participation in the Erasmus programme is paramount. The degrees are furthermore subject to scrutiny depending on relevance vis-a-vis the labour market, to ensure continuous relevance of the graduates and their education.

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3) Increasing mobility and cross-border cooperation: The University of Copenhagen believes that internationalisation fosters social integration, enhances intercultural understanding and improves pan-European cooperation and values. As such, the University has committed itself to promote and increase the level of exchanges through tangible targets.

4) Improving the Knowledge Triangle: The links between education, research and innovation are vital for an efficient and truly global labour force. The University of Copenhagen is heavily involved in research and invites Ph.D.-students to complete parts of their degree abroad. All students are furthermore encouraged to do traineeships, giving them practical experience and improving their job-readiness.

5) Funding and governance: The University of Copenhagen is fully committed to maximizing the return of resources committed, while continuing to offer a world-class education. The financial flexibility of the Erasmus+ programme contributes to this aim.