

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

a) Strategy, objectives and priorities for Erasmus activities (mobility, multilateral projects and thematic networks, etc.) and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013)

b) What specific actions are planned to give visibility to Erasmus activities and what type of publicity will be given to the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS? What kind of arrangements, if any, does the Institution ensure to comply with non-discrimination objectives (e.g. actions related to gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism)?

The fundamental development document Long-term Strategic Plan (2006-2010) of the University of Economics and Management (UEM) emphasises that the priority of UEM's international cooperation is to contribute to the sustained advancement and deepening of the internationally comparable level of studies at UEM.

The UEM leadership drew up a conceptual plan for the development of its international relations involving the building of its own global network of partnership contacts. The collaboration agreements will be made with a limited number of European partner institutions while the collaboration will be intensive and extended by the development of a common policy with regard to quality control, curriculum development, distance learning and the recruitment of international students. In the first step, the global network is focused primarily on the exchange of students (one- to three-trimester reciprocal exchanges), and the short-term exchange of research and teaching staff. The second step is to develop courses and curricula in collaboration with partner universities with the final aim of developing joint degrees.

Our mission is to provide sustainable educational opportunities through high-quality teaching and research, combining international activities with national and regional specific features, to provide students with up-to-date knowledge, to develop their skills and self-confidence, to arrange for education in its entirety by supporting the personal development of the students and teachers.

We are aware of the importance of curricula continuous adaptation leading to qualifications better suited both to the needs of the labour market and to further study. We are developing intensive and stable partnerships and cooperation with employers in the ongoing process of curriculum innovation based on learning outcomes (skills and competences). UEM aims to expand international courses to train teachers for work in a foreign language both at the home and the host university and in the same time supports participation at academic conferences abroad.

Students, at both undergraduate and graduate levels, teachers and other staff will be encouraged to spend at least one trimester in universities outside the Czech Republic, in order to provide them with opportunities to become acquainted with other European cultures and educational systems and to gain experience of collaboration in a European context.

The UEM abides by and respects the conclusions of the Bologna Declaration, and recognises its principles such as the usefulness of the harmonisation of the university education system in Europe and the world, and the adoption of a system of transparent and comparable degrees with a degree structure based on three main cycles – Bachelor's (3 years in full-time, 3,5 years in part-time programme), Master's (2,5 years in part-time programme) and Doctoral programme (we don't offer this programme yet). The study programmes at the UEM are strictly based on the idea of

modularity, which enables not only long-term but also short-term (from one to three trimesters) student exchanges.

Basic English language information regarding education system and facilities of UEM are available on the Internet (www.vsem.cz). UEM students and staff can obtain information about available exchanges through general and subject specific information meetings (with UEM and partner institutions staff), printed information materials, web pages and individual advising. Information for the incoming students will be presented by using the web pages (UEM and partner university), information materials, information meetings at partner universities and participation in educational fairs.

We ensure that neither students nor staffs suffer discrimination of any kind. In order to remove different conditions resulting from health handicaps of students, UEM aims to develop support scholarships, including multimedia broadcasting of lectures and e-learning for handicapped students.

What kind of specific measures are implemented to ensure high quality in academic mobility activities? Recognition and credit systems, the provision of information on curricula, information and counselling of outgoing students, tutoring and integration of incoming students, provision of student services (in particular accommodation), preparatory and refresher language courses, support and acknowledgement of staff mobility.

The UEM has a flexible administrative staff, where the department for development and international relations closely cooperates with the vice-rector for studies and administers the mobility programme. Implementation of EPS and the evaluation of international activities are therefore easily and clearly pursuable processes. The main task of the evaluation process is to monitor all mobility activities, discover possible problems and find suitable measures for reparation.

High quality in mobility activities is in ensured through setting up standards: 1) for selection of partner institutions (compatible EPS, similar structure of study programmes and character of research, European diversity), 2) for selection of mobility participants - student's mobility (extraordinary study outcomes, language knowledge, flexibility, communications skills, motivation, extracurricular activities, study and professional interest), teacher's mobility (recommendation/reference of head officers, experience in international environment, language knowledge, compatibility of syllabi).

The basic documents needed for recognition of student outcomes during student's mobility are ECTS Learning Agreement and Transcript of Records, which have to be checked out duly.

All students including foreign students may use the services of the Information Counselling Centre, which not only offers information on study possibilities abroad but also provides a range of advisory services including psychological consultation, assists the students in adapting both culturally and academically to the university environment, and offers a possibility of reservation air, bus and train tickets, accommodation, travelling insurance etc. It prepares also orientation program for newly arrived students and introduces them to academic life at UEM and to the details of studying and living in the Czech Republic.

All UEM students have to pass English exams, for the incoming students the UEM prepares basic Czech language courses.