

ERASMUS Policy Statement for ERASMUS Charta (2014-2020):

Please describe your institution's (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)

Over a period of 15 years FH JOANNEUM has continuously increased its international activities and is currently one of the leading Universities of Applied Sciences in Austria when it comes to student and staff mobility as well as international projects. FH JOANNEUM cooperates with over 150 partner universities within the ERASMUS program and another 50 universities in non-participating countries. Further partnerships exist in various cooperation programs (Tempus, EU-Alfa, LLL, FP, etc.). For the upcoming six years FH JOANNEUM has decided to focus on the establishment of strategic partnerships and quality assurance measures in all areas of mobility to further promote the internationalization process of the institution. FH JOANNEUM also remains highly committed to the objectives of the Bologna Process and will continue working on the implementation of student centered learning in competence based curricula and the increase of student mobility flows.

Since FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences is convinced that mobility opportunities for study and work abroad will increase our students' intercultural competence development and therefore help them to gain the key skills for the jobs of the future, one of the main objectives remains to cooperate with the best universities in our academic fields. FH JOANNEUM has developed a catalogue of criteria for the selection of new partner universities as well as criteria for continuously evaluating existing partnerships. Cooperation agreements will only be signed or renewed when most of these criteria are met. In this ongoing evaluation process the feedback of returning students and staff will be as important as the partner university's international reputation as reflected in memberships in international organizations such as EUA and international accreditations. We also welcome being evaluated by our partner universities in return. In international cooperation projects the evaluation is based on successfully completed projects, content expertise and project management capacity.

So far, FH JOANNEUM has established partnerships with numerous universities from participating countries with a particular focus on central and northern Europe. Our cooperation partners outside of Europe are spread over all continents with the majority in North- and South America, some in Asia as well as Australia. We see Africa as a potential area in which to extend this network in the future. When looking for new partner institutions, academic quality and degree program compatibility shall be prioritized over regional aspects. We nevertheless strive to balance our international network in order to provide a representative regional selection to our students and staff when looking for mobility opportunities.

Over the period of the upcoming ERASMUS for All program, FH JOANNEUM aims to increase its student mobility both in terms in quality and quantity. We hope to achieve a mobility rate of 20% in all our degree programs in the 1st cycle. Students shall be provided with a choice of semester-long study abroad, short study abroad options or international internship opportunities. As many of these mobility flows shall be undertaken under the new ERASMUS program, FH JOANNEUM shall therefore strive to participate actively in the key actions of the new program. Traditional mobility actions such

as study and internship abroad shall be complemented by new forms of mobility opportunities developed in the areas of cooperation projects.

The increase in quantity and quality of FH JOANNEUM's mobility activities shall be reached by means of the following actions:

- Development of 6-10 strategic partnerships within the existing network of partner universities. The cooperation with strategic partners will take place on the level of exchange activities (student and staff, short and long term), research and teaching activities (new and further development of double and joint degrees) as well as in cooperation projects in key 2 and 3 actions in the new program
- Implementation of a quality assurance system for the network of partner universities (application of the criteria developed and continuous improvement)
- Securing competence gained through study/work abroad by means of structured preparation for and reflection on the intercultural experience (establish mandatory pre-departure and re-entry workshops)
- Development of short-term mobility opportunities for part time students and students in degree programs where long-term mobility has not been possible so far for curricular reasons
- Development of 3 additional joint/double degrees at Master's level (2nd cycle) with special emphasis on programs taught in English

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

FH JOANNEUM (FHJ) has been active in various international cooperation projects (Tempus, EU-Alfa, LLL, FP, etc.) for over a decade. The related strategic priorities are:

- Creation of additional know how (KH) and expertise
- Transfer of existing KH and expertise to other HEIs across the globe
- Strengthening the KH transfer to and organizational learning of economic partners, especially SMEs
- Matchmaking between labor market and HE through optimization of interfaces (transfer mechanisms, indicators, digital technologies, modern didactics, etc.)
- Establishing strategic networks to harness synergies and spill-over effects (in teaching, mobility, research capacity and quality)
- Keeping revenue shares at current levels (10-15% of R&D income)

The implementation of these strategic priorities is the remit of the institutes' scientific staff and the transfer centers (TCs). TCs are designed to develop and transfer knowledge through R&D to industry, academia, the public sector, and society. The TCs hold crucial expertise and provide experience from previous projects not only from a technical point of view, but also in terms of the management and coordination of large-scale cooperation projects. Within these research centers internationally sought-after expertise of academic (teaching) staff guides the R&D-activities and guarantees a return

flow and integration of thematic state of the art knowledge in teaching and education. Mostly young scientific staff supports and participates in R&D-projects and gets the opportunity to learn and move forward onto their personal career paths. The R&D strategy is developed using a bottom-up as well as a top-down approach. Bottom-up, institutes create their international profiles in the respective thematic areas as part of their internal strategy workshops. These are aligned every 2-4 years to overall institutional strategies and goals via the coordination processes within the larger scale departments (encompassing several institutes).

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