

***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]

As part of its strategic plan, the University of La Rioja has internationalization as one of its main priorities, with the aim of being a modern and competitive university, offering quality academic programs which are attractive to students and staff from other universities, both EU and non-EU.

The University aims to achieve and sustain excellence in every area of its teaching and research, which would allow increased participation in exchange programs. To achieve this objective, the University is committed to fostering links with other European and non-European institutions which enable the exchange of knowledge by the academic staff, the exchange of good practices by the administration and that students may complete their education with periods of study and / or internship abroad which, in turn, will help their personal growth and improve their language skills and their future employability.

To meet this objective, the University is strongly committed to undertaking agreements with those institutions that may be of interest according to its degree programs and areas of expertise. The signing of institutional agreements for the exchange of students to study and/or to train should have the approval of the Academic Coordinator who ensures its viability, while agreements for teaching staff must have institutional approval.

All Erasmus agreements are authorised by the Institutional and International Vice-Chancellor. The University will promote Preparatory Visits to potential partner institutions and will safeguard the activity of the agreements by monitoring the exchanges made through them.

Within this Strategy, Europe, Latin America, United States, Canada, Australia, China and North Africa are the main geographical areas for the establishment of institutional agreements.

The University will promote student access to mobility programs and will ensure that all students will be chosen on the basis of to their merit, according to the principles of transparency, equality and non discrimination. The University is also committed to making arrangements to enable students with disabilities to participate as fully as possible in mobility programs.

In addition to exchanges for studies, and since all degrees of the University of La Rioja include traineeship courses, the University is committed to encouraging its students to do traineeships in companies and foreign institutions. The University will also encourage postgraduate students to participate in mobility programs, either as training or research.

All students selected to take part in exchange programmes will not pay tuition fees at the host institution. The University will ensure that students are given academic recognition of the studies and training period undertaken abroad as previously signed in the mobility agreement.

Students participating in mobility programs will receive the Diploma Supplement which will include the mobility period undertaken by the student in a foreign institution.

The opportunity to take part in teacher exchange programs is important for the professional development of the academic staff. This way, teacher exchanges are valued and encouraged as part of the policy of the University. The University will provide the needed measures to allow teaching staff mobility by adapting their working schedules to meet the requirements. Participation in mobility programs is valued throughout the assessment of teaching quality.

The participation in mobility programs of the administrative staff is a key element in the internationalization policy of the University. These exchanges allow establishing extensive ties with partner institutions, sharing good practices and improving the language skills of the administrative staff. The University encourages administrative staff to take part in mobility programs by providing them with work permits and acknowledging the mobility as part of their regular work.

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]

European and International Cooperation Projects are part of the University of La Rioja's modernisation and internationalisation strategy. With this aim, the University will work towards achieving strategic partnerships to promote international cooperation projects with EU and non-EU countries.

All European and international cooperation projects must have institutional authorisation. The University will foster links with Higher Education Institutions and organizations by taking into account geographical and subject area priorities. When participating in these projects, the University will provide the necessary resources and technical capacity to achieve the expected results. The objectives and the role the University plays in international cooperation projects must be set prior to the formalisation of the project.

The University is committed to supporting students and staff taking part in international projects by ensuring the appropriate measures to promote their involvement. Participation in these projects by teaching staff will be valued in the Quality Teaching Assessment while the students participation will be recognised as a transfer of credits and In the Diploma Supplement.

The University will ensure the visibility of activities and results within the academic community, its partnerships and beyond.

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]

The University of La Rioja aims to be a University of excellence in which internationalization is a key aspect of its policy in the long term. To achieve its objectives, the University of La Rioja is committed to contributing to the European Union's Modernisation and Internationalization Agenda in higher education whose impact is expected to be noticeable in all areas of the University.

Benefits of participating in the Program according to the five priorities of the Modernisation Agenda:

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researches Europe needs.  
Europe demands trained professionals in all aspects. The opportunity to conduct a study or training period abroad provides students with a broader education while contributing to their personal development and improving their language skills and their professional profile. Graduates and researchers who have been granted a training period abroad will have an added value which will lead to enhance their competitiveness.
2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.  
All undergraduate studies at our university are subject to monitoring and quality assessment by a National Agency. The exchange of knowledge between institutions with the same areas of interest will improve the quality of the University, making it more attractive for students and researchers in our region, EU and non-EU countries.
3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation.  
The University of La Rioja, along with the three other public Universities in the Ebro valley -University of Zaragoza, the Public University of Navarra and the University of Lleida- form the International Campus of Excellence Iberus, accredited by the Ministry of Education. The geographical and cultural proximity of Iberus with the University of Toulouse and the University of Pau et les Pays de l'Adour has allowed to create the cross-border campus EBRoS, which promotes excellence in higher education and research.  
Other strategic partnerships with EU or non-EU countries will allow research and study joint projects which may benefit both students and staff.
4. Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.  
The Community of La Rioja's development will be directly strengthened from graduates and researchers trained in a University one of whose key policies is internationalization.
5. Improving governance and funding.  
Created in 1992, the University of La Rioja is a young and modern University which, for its size, has an efficient Government and may quickly react in the decision making process. The University of La Rioja's Government is committed to carrying out an employability plan, through the Vice-Chancellor of Student and Employment. This Government is strengthened by the participation of the University in mobility , research and European fundraising Programmes.