

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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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]

Our aim is making Işık University programs a top priority preference for international students, Increasing employment, scholarship and internship opportunities for high-achieving international students, revising the promotional materials prepared in various languages and having these materials sent to institutions and universities in countries where there are potential Işık students, strengthening connections with universities in the same league, signing agreements for undergraduate programs, continuing with dual-degree program agreements; rendering student exchange programs effective, devising a calendar for international promotion activities, carrying out effective planning, upgrading the web pages of our University by taking international students into consideration, improving legislation concerning foreign students (visas, residence and work permits, scholarships, etc.) through efforts at the level of the government, increasing relations with the education branches of our countrys foreign missions, having Işık's foreign faculty members contribute to the planning and implementation of promotional activities targeting foreign students, developing the opportunities provided for our international students, improving employment, scholarship and internship opportunities for high-achieving international students

encouraging support to foreign students (providing them with information about the campus, courses, city life, etc., act as their interpreters when necessary, giving them guidance, etc.); providing contribution to ESN (Erasmus Student Network), Increasing the intercultural social activities which will promote the interaction of foreign students with other students, developing orientation programs and social and academic support programs for foreign students.

We choose our partners with the help of our academical staff. Our Erasmus departmental coordinators take different aspects into consideration. First they check how the prospective partner university's terms compare to Isik University terms. They check if the term dates coincide. The instruction language is also important. They search if there are language courses available for students in case the instruction language is other than English. The structure of Faculties and departments at our partners and the terminology are also other factors. Some subject areas may not be open to Exchange students at a prospective partner university, or there may be a limit to how many courses a student can take in a particular department. These are also aspects that affect how we choose our partners.

So far EU countries, and North America have been our target groups. However as part of our internationalisation strategy we are also interested in Asia, Middle East & Africa. In 2012 we organised International Summer School. This year we are holding two different International Summer schools. One is "Istanbul: Crossroads of Civilisations" and the other is "Turkish Language & Culture". We are expecting students from Egypt, Pakistan, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq etc.

The important objectives of our mobility activities are as follows: To encourage our academic staff to broaden and enrich the range and content of courses they offer; to allow students who do not have the possibility to participate in a mobility scheme, to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of academic staff from higher education institutions and from invited staff of enterprises in other European countries; to promote exchange of expertise and experience on pedagogical methods; to create links between higher education institutions and with enterprises & to motivate students and staff to become mobile and to assist them in preparing a mobility period.

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]

Işık University considers scientific research as keystone of academic endeavor. Faculty members and graduate students are encouraged to design and execute their research projects, participate in international research teams, such as those that are promoted in the European Union, and continue their research contacts in the United States, where most faculty members earned their Ph. D. and other graduate degrees. Project days and olympics are being planned for students. As an institution which aims to contribute to the scientific world at all times, we will create a fund program to support research projects that are to be carried out within the university. Scientific Research Projects (SRP) will fund research in different fields. The projects will be analyzed by specialists. Priority will be given to projects with more than one academic personnel's contribution, interdisciplinary projects, those funded by supporters in or out of Turkey or other foundations, and those of which the results may be published in international journals.

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]

Feyziye Schools Foundation, whose mission is to cultivate the youth of our country through a modern educational understanding added Işık University to its Işık Schools in 1996. Our university, with its academic staff endowed with the Işık tradition and the prominent scientists and educators of our country, is shaping the future of our young men and women. Işık University has adopted the principles of a flexible system, dynamism, modern infrastructure, specialization in accordance with international standards and student-centered education. The university aims to use this framework to nurture individuals who learn by researching, who have the capacity for critical thinking, who have contemporary values, who are receptive to diversity and change, and who can demonstrate leadership qualities. Işık University has five faculties: Engineering, Economics and Administrative Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, and most recently, Architecture and Design. Courses at Işık are taught in English, with the exception of the Fine Arts Faculty, where courses are taught in Turkish. Preparatory English language training is provided by the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) program of the university. Işık strives to provide students enrolled in undergraduate studies with a strong academic foundation and the skills to adapt to the demands of a rapidly changing world. Graduates of Işık University have garnered an excellent reputation. Many have established their own corporations or have found successful employment with organizations in Turkey and abroad, working in such fields as computer electronics, information technology, human resources, and marketing. Işık University is also a leader in graduate education and research. The University takes great pride in its strong research emphasis. Scholarly productivity is most prevalent in Engineering (i.e. Biomedical, Civil, Electronic, Computer, Industrial, Mechatronics and Mechanical), Information Technology, Physics, and Mathematics, as well as Humanities, Economics, Business, and International Relations. The Faculty of Fine Arts, established in 2007, promotes study and research in the visual arts, graphics arts and graphic design, interior design, industrial product design, landscape architecture, and fashion and textile design.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)