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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]

The goal of the University of Alcalá's internationalization strategy is to increase students' and staff mobility (both teaching and non-teaching staff) in both directions and to promote international degrees (double and joint degrees) as well as joint research projects. To that end we have redesigned the structure of our grants and are promoting teaching in English at all levels (Bachelor's, Master's and PhD's with supervision of doctoral research in English). We also encourage mobility aimed at establishing international relations with prestigious universities from all geographical regions and we have increased substantially the information regarding our studies and international opportunities on our web page and on international academic portals and other sites.

The University of Alcalá's key strategy focused on the goal of increasing international university mobility lies in part in the UAH establishing itself as a globally-recognized prestigious institution, as well as in the institution globally publicizing its activities and demonstrating its potential. All of our official degrees have been accredited by the Spanish Accreditation Agency (ANECA) and are thus officially recognized in all the EHEA countries. Furthermore, the University of Alcalá has undergone a rigorous evaluation by QS, an official academic accreditation firm, which has awarded the UAH with the highest possible score on the following criteria: teaching, internationalization, innovation, equipment and infrastructure, and social commitment, as well as having earned an overall score 4 out of 5 stars.

The University of Alcalá (UAH) is a comprehensive university with almost 30,000 students. We receive more than 5,000 international students per year who join us for temporary stays or to complete their undergraduate or graduate degrees at UAH. The University of Alcalá has recently been declared by QS World University Rankings the first Spanish university in terms of reception of international students in relation to its size and have strong teaching and research relations with prestigious universities from all geographic regions.

We have signed more than 750 exchange agreements and every year we offer 1,500 placements for our students in 400 universities from 55 countries where they can study without paying tuition fees. We furthermore promote student mobility through the ample range of Erasmus programmes (for undergraduate and graduate mobility stays, internships, Erasmus IP, Erasmus Mundus...). We also promote grants and scholarships, business grants and fellowships financed by partner firms and with our own funds.

With the goal of preparing our university's students for studying abroad and increasing the number of incoming exchange and visiting students to our university, we are promoting English-taught classes at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels. Presently we are offering 11 bilingual degrees (at least 50% of the courses taught in English) and a total of 140 courses in English at the bachelor's level. At the Master's level we offer 6 Master's degrees fully taught in English. Furthermore we welcome international PhD students and can supervise dissertation research in English in a very wide range of areas.

The University of Alcalá offers a large number of grants to foster international mobility for different purposes. These include: Accommodation grants in our Residence Hall for international Master's students and PhD students who wish to pursue a double PhD degree through our international joint supervision programme.

Inbound and outbound teaching and research grants for junior and senior instructors and researchers.

The Giner de los Rios grants offer financial aid for international instructors who wish to do one semester stays at UAH while teaching, especially for those who are willing and capable of teaching in English. Researchers wishing to work in research projects in collaboration with UAH professors are also welcome to apply.

Grants for participating in international conferences and for the organization of international conferences at UAH.

Travel grants to visit universities to pursue double degrees and other international agreements.

We also promote Erasmus teaching staff mobility grants and Erasmus teaching and non-teaching staff grants for training.

Our web site in English includes ample information of these and other opportunities for international mobility for all target groups and for many different programmes. Our aim is to promote student and staff mobility to and from all geographical areas and to reach to the best universities around the world, regardless of their location.

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]

The UAH receives a high volume of international students (more than 5,000 from more than 100 countries) and sends a high number of UAH students to study abroad (4% of the undergraduate student body studying abroad per year). The successful organization of such a large student mobility program requires a well planned and organized effort, put forth by our hard-working and committed staff for both the incoming as well as the outgoing students. In order to achieve this goal, we rely on the strong network of international relations offices in our university faculties and schools, which are coordinated by professors and administrative staff who specialize in the academic management of study abroad students (both inbound and outbound). There is also a central international relations office, which manages administrative matters, regarding student visas, health and accident insurance, housing, course registration, and so on.

From an internationalization of teaching point of view, our main priorities for the coming years lie in promoting international academic programs specifically designed for every degree. To this end, we are establishing relationships with leading partners in every field of study in order to further the establishment of dual degrees, teaching exchanges, shared research projects that further the possibility toward international partnerships among doctoral programs.

With the goal of further developing international research projects, we continue to welcome visiting professors from prestigious universities who come to work alongside our UAH researchers. Likewise, we also continue to encourage our UAH professors to teach abroad and participate in international research projects, which we make possible by fostering teaching and research agreements with some of the most prestigious institutions in the world, such as Oxford University (Lady Margaret Hall College), the University of Glasgow, Shanghai International Studies University, among many others.

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]

1. Increasing Attainment Level: The UAH makes an effort to reach out to local and to international students, organizes visits from local high school students and teachers to our premises, prepares lectures to inform of our potentialities, organizes open doors' sessions and welcoming ceremonies, etc. Our promotion policy aimed at reaching to students worldwide includes increasing the amount of information available at the international homepage of our website in English and translating various sections of it to other languages, such as Chinese, Arabic and Russian. We are also increasing our online presence via international social networks, such as Twitter, Weibo or Youku.

2. Improving Quality and Relevance: The UAH is not only making efforts to improve the quality of its teaching and research, but it is also assessing the results of these efforts through international accreditation. All of our official Degrees at the Bachelor's, Master's and PhD levels have been accredited by the National Accreditation Agency (ANECA) and the UAH participates in national and international rankings, including QS World University Ranking, QS World University Ranking, Global Research University Profile Survey. UAH professors are increasingly participating in official teaching assessment programme (DOCENTIA) that evaluates the instructor's success in planning, developing, and presenting the courses curriculum.

3. Promoting Mobility and International Cooperation: The UAH promotes multiple programs with the goal of enabling greater mobility among professors, students, and administrative staff. We emphasize our ample pool of English-taught courses at the Bachelor's and Master's level, participation in double degrees, co-tutorship programs at the PhD level and in different kinds of cooperation programs (Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus Tempus, Alpha Projects and Erasmus IP, among others), Spanish classes and programs specifically designed for students with linguistic difficulties. Another key component of our internationalization strategy is our network of UAH offices abroad (Chile, Mexico, China and Belgium).

4. Strengthening the knowledge triangle: Modern teaching relies largely on practical learning and internships become an essential part of it. All of our Bachelor's and Master's degrees include practical training and the UAH has signed agreements with more than 3.000 firms that provide internships for our students. We are also building a database of international firms which hire our students for practical training.

5. Right Governance and Funding Conditions: Spanish public universities are increasingly expected to raise a larger proportion of their budget through tuition fees, research projects, endowed chairs, patents, contracts with firms. Governance plays a crucial role in overseeing and encouraging faculty and staff to explore available opportunities in all of these areas and then of making sure that such outreach activities are supported in the most efficient way.

E

Endorsement of the application

I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,

certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;

agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;

agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission

Place: Alcalá de Henares

*Name: Fernando Galván
Reula*

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 13/05/2013

I have read and accept the Privacy statement

Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)



Original stamp or seal of the Institution

