



## EPS Erasmus Policy Statement

The University for Foreigners of Perugia is the oldest and most prestigious Italian institution involved in teaching and research activities as well as in the spread of the Italian language and civilization in all of its forms. In the last few years, the institutional mission also includes the promotion of multilingualism, intercultural dialogue, communication and international cooperation, as stated in art. 1 and 2 of the Statute of the University.

For the University for Foreigners of Perugia, the internationalization process assumes a fundamental value in which the essential objectives are represented by the increase of mobility among students and staff, the creation of new exchange programs and inter-university cooperation with EU and non-EU institutions.

**a) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF PARTNERS:** Partner selection is based primarily on sharing criteria of the general principles that inspire the activity of the University: promotion of the Italian language and culture, intercultural dialogue, international cooperation, laity, independence and non-discrimination.

The collaboration with partner institutions must, furthermore, always encourage mutual commitment in order to achieve objectives related to the social dimension of higher education, improve the quality of services and training opportunities, provide incentives for mobility aimed at an increasing interaction with the market, for the implementation of effective and transparent financing strategies.

**b) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS:** Following its original mission, the University has always played an important role as a link between Italy and the communities of Italian language and culture settled in other countries such as the North and South America, Australia and many countries of Western Europe, destination of migration flows until the last century. The collaboration with the universities of these countries, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the network of Italian Institutes of Culture will be increased to enhance the action of the University in these areas, providing effective responses to linguistic and cultural needs of those who, despite being citizens in other countries, intend to cultivate the Italian roots of their identity, benefitting from opportunities of personal enrichment, but also better perspectives of employment;

- Due to Italy's strategic position which is located at the center of the Mediterranean basin, in recent years, the University has played an important role as a "cultural bridge" between EU countries and the countries of the south eastern shore of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe, from which important migration flows came and to which, for some years now, Italian companies have directed major investments in the sectors of services and productive activities.

- The strong interest in the Italian language, culture and lifestyle recently arose especially in Far Eastern countries (i.e. China, Japan, Vietnam) is a strong incentive to intensify the relations of inter-university cooperation in this area, in order to integrate and strengthen the measures so far undertaken (i.e. Marco Polo project/Turandot).

The cooperation with these countries will therefore be intensified, creating the conditions for:

- a solid language, cultural, professional training *in loco*, that offers students coming from these areas better professional perspectives (both in the origin country and in Italy);

- the dissemination of the knowledge of languages, cultures, educational and economic-productive systems of these countries among the Italian students in order to promote mobility and cultural growth, both during the training period, and during professional integration and/or requalification.



**c) OBJECTIVES AND TARGET GROUPS:** The aims and main target groups of the internationalization strategy of the University can be summarized as follows:

- strengthen the "mobility culture" within the University involving both students and staff;
- align the University with the European standards in terms of quality and internationalization in teaching and research, in services, fundraising abilities and efficient use/allocation of financial resources;
- consolidate wide networks of cooperation with EU and extra-EU universities, but also with local, national/international, governmental/non-governmental institutions, as well as with the private sector, in order to promote long-term synergies in the field of higher education and training at all levels.

The double degrees program, already experienced and implemented with some Universities in Brazil, Vietnam, Russia and Argentina is an issue in which the University is strategically deepening its own planning efforts, as demonstrated by the 34 agreements currently running. The effort will focus on the removal of those linguistic, bureaucratic and academic barriers that prevent outgoing mobility.

The strategies that the University is planning to adopt in order to achieve the objectives set out in D1, c) can be summarized as follows:

I. in order to consolidate its own "culture of mobility" the University will:

a. encourage mobility by the means of:

- strengthen a personalized orientation/mentoring service for the mobility aimed at helping students in the planning of their own learning purposes, the following recognition of the credits gained abroad and the achievement of academic awards;
- allocate funds to partially cover travel and living costs abroad.

b. encourage scientific and educational relations of teachers with colleagues from other countries through reward recognition of international collaborations.

c. disseminate among the staff those instrumental skills which are necessary to operate in an international context, by:

- refresher courses and training seminars aimed at the improvement of linguistic, cultural and ICT abilities;
- increasing funding for the participation of the staff in international events dedicated to the promotion and modernization of higher education systems.

II. The actions summarized in point I. will be planned, financed and supervised by the Board of Directors of the University every three years; this will allow a gradual improvement in the quality and internationalization of activities, through the definition and monitoring of medium-term objectives.

III: The synergy with the partner Universities, on one hand, and with the local, national and international governmental/non-governmental, as well as private actors (whose representatives are part of the Board of Directors of the University) on the other hand, will support the planning and the co-financing of actions (i.e. academic titles/joint courses/ training and specialization courses, etc.) really effective in terms of professional usability in Italy and abroad.