



## Erasmus Policy Statement

The University of Ljubljana (UL) is an internationally renowned institution of higher education active in the fields of science and research, as well as the arts. In its core areas of action, it pursues excellence and the highest ethical standards in education, research, science, and the arts. The University fosters outstanding teachers, critically thinking scientists, ingenious artists and experts in various fields, who achieve superb results in Slovenia and abroad.

The University of Ljubljana encourages interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies, shares its achievements in science and the arts with other universities and science and research institutions, contributes to the Slovenian and global store of knowledge, and passes this on to students and others. It collaborates with organisations from the private and public sectors, with state authorities, local communities and civil society, and thus contributes to the development of the broader social environment. By actively responding to the events taking place in its surroundings and considering humanism and human rights, it serves as society's critical conscience.

The University of Ljubljana continuously increases the scope of its involvement in international research projects, and is successful in obtaining funds from abroad. At the same time, it boosts the mobility of students, teachers, researchers and members of its professional staff. According to the Strategy for the Internationalisation of the University of Ljubljana 2014–2020, the main focus is on internationalisation for the purpose of sharing knowledge, as well as improving the University's international recognisability and quality. The aim until 2020 is to increase the number of students going abroad by a third, and the number of incoming foreign students, teachers and researchers by a quarter. As all interest groups and types of mobility are equally important for the University, we will continue to provide information in a variety of ways on the mobility options open to students and staff, and to prepare students to take advantage of these. We will also focus on encouraging mobility among students and staff with special needs, and on ensuring the conditions needed for mobility are available to students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

The measures aimed at enhancing the University's international recognisability, and its reputation as an internationally open and excellent research university that contributes creatively to the quality of life, are related to the implementation of the internationalisation strategy, which envisages the following:

1. Formation of strategic partnership networks with selected universities;
2. Increasing the range of foreign-language study programmes, especially for the second and third cycles, and the range of summer school programmes, and further development of Slovene scientific terminology;
3. Increasing the implementation of study programmes abroad;
4. Increasing the number of incoming and outgoing mobility students, staff and researchers at the University of Ljubljana;
5. Prioritising research and educational activity within international research networks;
6. Encouraging the formation of large interdisciplinary and research groups;
7. Active participation in the creation of research policies in Slovenia and Europe;
8. Formation of internal financial mechanisms and incentives for research work;
9. Establishment of a University publishing house for dissemination of outstanding scientific achievements in Slovenia and abroad;
10. Increasing the scope of international patents, inventions and licences based on basic and applied research.



Mobility is the key tool in implementing the internationalisation strategy. By participating in the Erasmus+ programme and other international structures, the University has established important partnerships with numerous strategic and other partners with the greatest development potential.

Participating in international programmes, projects, networks, joint programmes and research projects ensures the development and passing on of knowledge, the improved quality of research and education, development of inter-cultural competencies, experience in the management and following of trends and needs, and greater employability of graduates. This brings the University its competitive advantage, which makes it possible for us to present ourselves to foreign universities as a competitive and competent collaboration partner.

Our key areas of collaboration involve our strategic partners: University of Trieste (Italy), Kyungpook National University (South Korea), Nanjing University and Sichuan University (China), ELTE Budapest (Hungary), University of Graz (Austria), Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), University of Rijeka (Croatia), and within the following university networks: The Guild, CELSA, VIU, UNICA, Utrecht Network, Western Balkans Platform, EUA, IUC, ARRC, EUCEN, EADTU, EUTOPIA, VIU, Leo-net, among others. The University of Ljubljana has also identified strategically important partners in institutions and universities in neighbouring countries, the Western Balkans, the Mediterranean and in Asia. After years of international projects and engaging in internationalisation we have extended the scope of our activities to include highly industrialised nations (South Korea, Japan, USA, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, etc.) and BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). Our scope of collaboration and connections also includes other countries that are the driving forces in certain development areas, and serve as examples of good practice in higher education and economy. We strive to offer our knowledge and experience, to value our collaboration in EHEA, and share the results as key elements of development and social responsibility. The University of Ljubljana chooses its partners by adopting both bottom-up and top-down approaches. By doing so, we meet the needs of the University itself, as well as those of our members, who bear the primary responsibility for the implementation of the internationalisation strategy. In the following years, the University of Ljubljana will continue with student mobility with the focuses on studying and practical training, as well as the mobility of teachers and administrative staff. The aim is to increase the flow of mobility within partner countries and eventually achieve a balance between the outgoing and incoming students and staff.

The University of Ljubljana realises that Slovenia alone does not have the scale to develop all knowledge potentials. The University will therefore need to become more confident when it comes to opening up to its surroundings. It must become a relevant and renowned regional and global partner. A key role in these efforts is played by the internationalisation of employment and exchange of staff, students and researchers, as well as identification of European and other research funds, and the acquisition of financial resources through these. We will strive to form joint research groups, study programmes, and educational offerings, and enhance the development, consulting and other services offered outside Slovenia.

The gradual expansion of collaboration possibilities, from mobility to joint implementation of study programmes and the awarding of joint degrees, is a complex process, which requires special adjustments to national and institutional regulations, especially when implementing joint study programmes. As we are aware of the obstacles in the national and international environment, we strive to highlight the specific problems we encounter in the course of these activities. Our interest is to eliminate legal and practical obstacles to opening our study programmes and encourage the



recognition and awarding of joint degrees, both in order to benefit and improve international mobility and to recognise cycles for our graduates. The University of Ljubljana currently has 14 study programmes confirmed, 13 master's and one doctoral programme.

The University will continue to update curricula and activities aimed at optimising the duration of studies in order to improve the quality of graduates so that they can be competitive in the international labour market. We plan to increase the number of programmes available in foreign languages in order to raise the number of foreign students and teachers. We will continue to include top experts from the wider economy and public institutions in the formation and implementation of study programmes in all three study cycles.

We would like to increase the number of international summer schools and the number of participants, and thus to contribute to internationalisation in Slovenia and also to encourage shorter forms of mobility.

An important aspect of internationalisation is to include and involve foreign students and teachers in the Slovenian environment, which we will accomplish through various support activities, courses in the Slovenian language, culture and history, and the option of using the Year plus activity for foreign students. By undertaking all these activities, we will facilitate the passing on of international experts' knowledge into Slovenia and the acquisition of inter-cultural competencies, while also enabling contact with foreign cultures for students who are unable to participate in student exchanges for economic or other reasons. Upon returning to their home environments, foreign students and staff will possess knowledge of the Slovenian language and culture, which will allow them to spread the word about the University of Ljubljana and Slovenia. In the long term, this will enhance our reputation internationally, and help in establishing formal connections (e.g. networks and international tenders) not only for the University of Ljubljana, but also for other stakeholders and Slovenia as a country.

Through various projects, the University of Ljubljana pursues the goal of social responsibility by putting the knowledge it helps create into practice. It accomplishes this through development, research and professional activities, promoting entrepreneurship, and offering consulting services, including access to experts in educational activities and programmes of life-long learning. The organisational forms of such efforts include centres of excellence, competence centres, research and development projects for companies and other organisations, career centres, the Ljubljana University Incubator, the Institute for Innovation and Development (IRI), the Social Entrepreneurship Centre, and the Slovenian Innovation Hub.

The University of Ljubljana is increasing the scope of training (in terms of the number of options and their length) for its academic and research staff in the international arena by introducing the planning of staff careers and changes in promotions. We have adjusted the habilitation criteria to facilitate the employment of foreign teachers. We will continue to focus on the open nature of employment and publish the available job positions on the international Euraxess portal.

One of the strategic priority tasks of the University of Ljubljana is to educate socially responsible graduates with excellent job prospects on the Slovenian as well as the international market. To this end, the University of Ljubljana has established a system for monitoring the employability of its graduates, enhanced its Quality, Analyses and Reporting Service, and improved the tutoring system services and the work undertaken by the career centres. The University of Ljubljana will continue to strengthen the relationships and cooperation with its graduates within the UL Alumni Club and the University of Ljubljana Global Alumni and Associates Network (SMUL), which mostly unites



scientists, professors and other renowned figures from the academic, research and development environments abroad who are connected with Slovenia, in order to raise the quality of study programmes, reinforce international cooperation and enhance the reputation of the University of Ljubljana.

Since internationalisation is one of the pillars of the University's future development, collaboration in the EU and global educational and research programmes is an essential area, and one which we intend to continue to realise through Erasmus+ as well as other means.

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