

Erasmus Policy Statement

1. What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

The mission of the Evangelical School of Theology, as it has been stated in the "Strategy of Development of Evangelical School of Theology for 2017-22", is preparing students to work for Christian churches, communities and other institutions, which traditionally form an essential part of Polish social life.

In order to achieve this objective, EST is concerned about the high quality of education not only in the field of theology but also in the widely defined sphere of culture and public life. Therefore, we are focused on holding the highest academic standards, which requires from the academic and administrative staff constant professional development and adaptation to the needs of students. EST perceives close cooperation with European HEI's and other institutions as the most effective tool for supporting educational staff in implementing competency-based teaching and learning approaches. We expect that the internationalisation will stimulate the modernisation of the institution in the context of didactic and organisational innovations. Therefore, EST wants to continue the collaboration with existing Erasmus partners and gradually extend the cooperation with new partners holding high academic standards.

EST recommends to students that they participate in Erasmus mobilities, which ensure high-quality education and training in new contexts. In this way, we want them to develop various key competences and basic skills, such as communication in foreign languages, interpersonal skills, social and civic participation as well as cultural awareness and expression, which are competencies needed for personal fulfilment and development in contemporary Europe. The internationalisation is also a means to experience European identity in all its diversity, which is coherent with one of the most crucial strategical goals of our school, namely exploring the foundations of European culture. Since we perceive the educational and cultural value of international mobilities, we encourage our students to treat studying abroad as a standard part of their education process.

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

EST declares to respect in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion, ensuring equal access and opportunities to participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.

EST will promote environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme.

EST will promote civic engagement and encourage students and staff to get involved as active citizens at all stages of realisation of mobilities.

2. Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

EST will organise the mobility of the academic and administrative staff for the purpose of giving lectures and attending professional training, as well as of the Bachelor's students mobility for studies and placement in the partner universities and organisations (Erasmus Key Action 1).

The essential purpose of the staff mobility will be a collective elaboration of innovative didactic methods and projects as well as organisational solutions aimed at modernisation of the institution.

The students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

The mobilities for the purpose of studying and teaching will be carried out within the prior inter-institutional agreements defining the roles and responsibilities of the parties. Student and staff mobility will be based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff validated in advance between the sending and receiving institutions or enterprises and the mobile participants.

EST will provide fair, transparent and well-documented procedures for the selection of mobile staff and students

EST will ensure full automatic recognition of all credits gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study or training abroad, included during blended mobilities. We will publish and regularly update on our website the Course Catalogue as well as information about the grading system and explanations concerning the recognition procedure. It will allow mobile students to make a well-informed choice about the courses they will follow. EST will undertake the necessary steps to implement digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative.

EST will ensure that staff will be given recognition for their teaching and training activities undertaken during the mobility period.

EST will regularly promote all activities supported by the Programme, along with their results.

3. What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

EST expects that the participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will significantly contribute:

- a) to improving the quality of teaching thanks to the implementation of new innovative didactic approaches;
- b) to modernising the mode of functioning of the institution thanks to the implementation of new organisational solutions;
- c) to acquiring by students participating in study and training mobilities new skills, which are essential for their professional and civic functioning in society (knowledge of foreign languages, civic participation, cultural awareness).

EST wants to extend the range of the international cooperation and sign new inter-institutional agreements (at least 5 by 2022)

EST will ensure high-quality linguistic, cultural and administrative support to staff and students in the preparation of applications for mobility projects to follow the quality standards defined in the ECHE

EST will provide active support to incoming participants in every sphere concerning the organisation of their mobilities