

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2014-2020

- 1. 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 areas**
 - 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.**

One of the main strategic objectives of the Medical University of Bialystok is an active cooperation with numerous scientific centres, universities and teaching hospitals all over the world . Its internationalisation will be possible, among others, through participation in the Erasmus Programme in the years 2014-2020.

The specific strategic objectives of the School include gradual expansion of student, academic teacher and non-academic staff mobility. Best specialists, academic teachers in all subjects from Faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health Sciences will be involved in the choice of universities and other partner institutions.

Once the offer has been presented by the Deans, University Programme Coordinator or Faculty Programme Coordinators, the decision on the signing of the interinstitutional agreement is finally made by the University Erasmus Programme Committee and, afterwards, it will require the Rector's approval.

The initiative to make agreements with partners outside the European Union rests on the Vice Rector for Scientific Affairs. The choice of universities and partner institutions will be closely linked to the overall strategy and objectives of the University, including the widest international scientific cooperation.

As of yet, the University has closely cooperated with universities from Eastern and Western Europe, the USA and Japan. In line with its mission, considering the geographical location in the eastern frontier of the European Union, the Medical University of Bialystok plays a special role in developing scientific and clinical cooperation with the neighbouring countries of Eastern Europe. It should be emphasized here that the scientific and professional cooperation with Medical Institutes in Grodno, Minsk, Kaunas , Lvov and Vilnius has had over thirty years of tradition.

In the years 2014-2020 the School will broaden cooperation regarding mobility with institutions in the same geographical region. Furthermore, to improve the competitiveness of the educational offer for students taught in English, the University will organize student training abroad in clinical and didactic centres in the European Union and the USA.

The School has also been working to implement the American Study Programme at the Faculty of Medicine. Establishing cooperation in the field of mobility with universities from

Scandinavia, the Netherlands, the UK and the Baltic countries is a clear response to students' needs regarding mobility.

The main strategic objective for university staff training trips will be a scheduled recruitment of beneficiaries in accordance with the School's needs, scheduled staff training and a regular exchange of scientific and professional experience among employees of organizational units. In order to continuously improve the quality of education the choice of proper partnership will be essential.

The School will spare no effort to ensure bilateral staff exchange, providing favourable conditions for foreign academic teachers and non-academic staff. For the first-cycle students, the University's strategy involves promoting student placements abroad in places such as hospitals, laboratories and institutes to enhance practical skills, professional competences and familiarising the students with work organisation and methods in partner countries. Especially great opportunities in this field open to the students at the Faculty of Health Sciences. In the remaining faculties the student placements will be available to the first-cycle students.

The School's strategy regarding the second-cycle studies, i.e. Supplementary Master's Degree Studies and Integrated Master's Degree Studies is to promote the idea of study placements lasting one semester or a full academic year. At this stage students are taught mostly clinical subjects so international mobility will provide them with crucial experience in their contact with patients.

The Medical University of Bialystok is planning to increase the mobility of the third-cycle students, i.e. doctoral students, through interinstitutional cooperation agreements with foreign centres, offering to admit exchange doctoral students for one semester and provide them with an appropriate curriculum recognized by their home university. The University will launch interdisciplinary PhD studies taught in the English language and led by two faculties in cooperation with Mossakowski Medical Research Centre at the Polish Academy of Sciences and universities in Belgium and Spain. Within the framework of this Programme two groups of doctoral students will be formed: biomedical and methodological. This project will be absolutely unique in Poland. The students of the Interdisciplinary PhD Programme will benefit from the mobility within the Erasmus Programme.

2. 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.

In the years 2014 - 2020 the Medical University of Bialystok will take further steps aimed at promoting the involvement of students and employees in international multilateral projects.

Considering the geographical location, the University will look for future partner institutions in the neighbouring countries, bearing in mind the current effective cooperation with universities from Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine.

The School will also want to benefit from the experience of universities from Germany, France, Sweden, Spain, Portugal and the Czech Republic. The University will make an effort to ensure that the participation of its representatives in multilateral projects reflects the University's mission and leads to the achievement of previously established targets.

The University Centre for Innovative Research has attained the status of a Leading National Research Centre (KNOW). As part of multilateral cooperation for the years 2012-2017, with the involvement of University Medical and Pharmaceutical Faculties, Medical Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences and universities from Belgium and Spain, coordinated activities are conducted, aimed at establishing international, interdisciplinary PhD studies in the English language and at training young teaching staff.

The University intends to coordinate these activities with participation in the Erasmus Programme multilateral projects. The School regularly invites visiting professors from partner institutions in different EU countries, the USA and others, who deliver expert lectures.

The visiting professors are distinguished scientists whose academic accomplishments are recognized worldwide and whose numerous lectures have a significant impact on nurturing a quality culture in teaching at MUB. The University recognizes a possibility of incorporating these activities into the Programme's multilateral projects and will ensure dissemination of information regarding the outcomes of multilateral project participation.

3. 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.

- to increase the number of higher education graduates***
- to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training, to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations***
- to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border cooperation to boost higher education performance***
- to strengthen the „knowledge triangle” linking education, research and business***
- to create effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence***

Through participation in the Erasmus programme during the 2014-2020 period the School is going to fulfil the tasks defined in the conclusions on the modernisation of higher education, outlined in the 'Modernisation Agenda' – Council conclusions of November 2011.

In order to increase the number of higher education graduates, the School is going to improve the teaching standards and increase the number of foreign students, hereby implementing its internationalisation.

Moreover, the Medical University of Bialystok is going to increase doctoral student intake through constantly modified modern curriculum of doctoral courses, including interdisciplinary PhD studies in the English language, an extensive program of grants and scholarships, flexibility in choosing supervisors and in timesheet processing.

Participation in the Erasmus programme will ensure a more appealing range of courses to meet the needs of the aforementioned groups of students, who will also get an opportunity to do their internships abroad.

In order to improve the quality of teaching and equip graduates with skills they need to succeed in the job market, the School has created Quality Assurance and Improvement Office responsible for appropriate modification of the training system which responds to the needs of innovative development of the country and has modified the Careers Service.

Participation in multiple projects in this area and information gathered from students taking part in mobility schemes will allow an analysis of training results. The School is planning to launch online lectures and seminars with onsite access, which will certainly prove to be an advantage to exchange students.

Moreover, the School is planning to create Medical Simulation Centre equipped with training manikins, simulators and specialist software.

The University is planning to make use of long-term collaboration with foreign higher education institutions located close to Bialystok (Universities of Minsk and Grodno in Belarus and University of Kaunas in Lithuania) to promote the idea of mobility.

The School's strategy for the 2014–2020 period also entails the strengthening of the "knowledge triangle", i.e. linking education, research and business, including the medical character of the university. In order to achieve this, courses and workshops on putting research to business use are organized and relevant changes to curricula are introduced.

Participation in the Erasmus programme gives many possibilities in this area, mainly through student placements abroad and staff mobility for training. One of the School's objectives is to make effective use of funding in order to promote international collaboration, both with EU member states and other countries in Europe and around the world. To this end, the School will establish mechanisms such as procedural regulations and involving School authorities and coordinators in decision-making concerning mobility.