

Erasmus Policy statement (EPS) of the Warsaw School of Computer Science

The Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how one intends to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE.

What would our HEI like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does our participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into our institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

Warsaw School of Computer Science, founded in the year 2000, is a higher vocational school. Our institution defines its main objectives for the institutional internationalization and modernization in accordance with policies of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Bologna Process, integration into European Education Area and development projects. Receiving the Erasmus University Charter in 2008 as well as participating in other LLP-Programmes (e.g. Leonardo da Vinci or Study Visits) and later on obtaining ECHE in 2013 allowed us to undertake the planned, long-term activities related to student study exchange, placement periods and internships abroad as well as academic research, staff exchange and experts' visits. The new impetus to these activities was also given by the European Union projects for the development of Warsaw School of Computer Science funded by the European Social Fund.

One of our top priorities continues to be the creation of mobility opportunities for students, alumna and alumni of all levels of studies to enhance their educational experience and boost their linguistic, social, cultural and professional competences. While stimulating outgoing and incoming student exchanges we will also bear in mind the possibilities offered by virtual and blended mobility. Although computer science students / graduates are, at first, reluctant to participate in Erasmus+ exchange, necessary promotional measures are taken to attract them (e.g. making use of positive feedback from former programme participants who act as Ambassadors). We guarantee full recognition of qualifications / credits, transparent selection procedures based on equal opportunities as well as standards agreed by the partners. Practical arrangements for the outgoing and incoming students/graduates such as administrative support, accommodation, insurance, crash languages courses, etc. are of great importance to us.

Furthermore, our institution aims to internationalize its curriculum by increasing the number of study programmes taught in English. Currently, the vast majority of courses offered in English is targeted at second cycle students. Our study programmes attract a number of international Master students from the Ukraine, Pakistan, Belarus, Italy, Ghana, India, Turkey, Bolivia, the USA, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Morocco, and other countries. Currently those students constitute 2,5% of the total number of our students. We wish to make our academic offer even more appealing to non-European and EU students seeking admission.

In addition, we are fully committed to creating a joint, second cycle degree program for graduate computer science students. The joint-degree project that we plan, will allow the enrolled students to follow a flexible pathway through different M.Sc. degree programs across different Higher Education Institutions. Projects such as these hold the promise of greater understanding of other academic systems and enable the students and faculty to enhance their educational experience. We want to develop a lasting programme, learn from good practices of partners and draw on each other's experience. The anticipated outcomes for student achievement will be: highly mobile individuals who have a global mindset and who have the ability to adapt in other cultures easily, broadening the range of life skills as well as boosting their language skills.

At the core of our philosophy is providing quality education and numerous opportunities for practical application of knowledge. Our alumni and alumna can therefore, successfully compete in IT and business fields. Training periods are obligatory for all our students and are described in our curriculum. We will continue to offer our B.Sc. and M.Sc. students an opportunity to gain experience at various companies in Europe and Asia. The Warsaw School of Computer Science actively seeks placements for students as well as internships for

graduates. With some companies we have been cooperating on these tasks ever since first joining the Erasmus Programme in 2008. We want to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through training abroad as well as offer students new destinations to choose from.

We also wish to increase teaching staff mobility through maintaining the existing educational cooperation as well as developing new contacts, including cooperation in the scope of organization of joint degrees. Although teacher mobility is a vital factor in the periodic staff evaluation, we will also seek other methods of making teacher staff exchange appealing to our academics.

Increasing the participation of non-academic staff in Erasmus+ training weeks is excellent means to improve the way the HEI's administration functions and to boost linguistic and professional skills of our employees. We are proud that members of all our administrative units have already participated in Erasmus+ staff exchange (e.g. Library, Dean's Office, Finance, Recruitment, IT, etc.). We also whole-heartedly welcome members of administrative staff from our partner institutions because we feel it fosters infinite possibilities and we like learning from good practices. Under the new Erasmus+ programme, we also wish to organize a Staff Week of our own (it will be related to IT).

At the Warsaw School of Computer Science we are constantly adjusting our curriculum to include new developments, trends, standards and technologies to tailor the study programme to the demands of the labour market. Strengthening the links between academia, research and business institutions is of great importance to us. We are the only higher education institution in Poland to have a Rector's Board consisting of CEOs of Polish branches of international IT companies: Microsoft, HP, Cisco, Intel, IBM as well as Oracle. Our students are offered additional learning opportunities, for example, free-of-charge courses provided by Cisco, Microsoft, Oracle, HP, IBM, Intel and NASK-Research and Academic Computer Network; certification preparation courses within Microsoft IT Academy, Oracle Academy, Cisco Networking Academy. In partnership with IT / Computer Science Departments of major Polish universities we are also creating online courses for students/graduates - under the Programme we will be able to cooperate on that with European and non-European universities.

We also aim at the improvement of the teaching-learning process by common development (together with partners from abroad) of didactic materials, study programmes, curricula, course modules. Under the Programme, we wish to invite experts from European and non-European universities and IT companies to conduct a lectures or workshops for students to equip students with up-to-date knowledge. In order to further improve the quality and relevance of teaching we will encourage our didactic staff to participate in Teacher Peer Observations (to try out new ways of conducting lessons). Teaching methods are constantly improved to suit students' needs, enhancing the development of e-learning platforms and other educational tools. We constantly seek solutions for overcoming learning problems and difficulties.

International and European cooperation plays an important role in our institution's strategic development. We will continue to participate actively in international fairs and conferences promoting the visibility of our HEI, trying to recruit more international students and attract more experts as well as enhance our School's (brand) recognition.