

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Daugavpils University (DU) is the biggest state regional University in East part of Latvia and it is the border of European Union. DU has positioned itself as a bridge between East and West that allows to build strong cooperation with EU and non – EU partners developing University's and region needs for higher education, reseach and business.

DU partners have been chosen based on previous successful experience, resultative indicators and researchers' contacts that has been obtained throughout scientific society – conferences, common researches and projects. DU is attracting researchers both from EU and non – EU countries (France, Denmark, Poland, Spain, Russian Federation, Belarus etc.).

Internationalisation is one of the overrall University strategy parts. DU aims to promote its internationalisation strategy through student and staff mobility within Europe and non – EU countries with an emphasis on Eastern neighbouring area, Central and East Asia.

Mobility programmes take a significant part for planning further mobility activities that would envisage DU higher education and training sector more international to staff and students in first, second, third cycles, and short cycles.

DU has selected the important objectives in the Programme to be achieved:

- To enlarge University's student and staff academic and support activities in international development in order to improve and enrich the educational and research experience;
- To increase the number of outgoing and incoming mobility;
- To participate in international mobility programmes and educational cooperational projects.
- To promote the modernisation of degree courses in higher education;
- To promote and support student and staff mobility from under-represented groups and develop non – discrimination policy;
- To develop integrated joint courses, modules, curricula, double and joint degrees;

The general policy of DU is to work on the basis of non-discrimination principles, such as inclusion of issues on tolerance and integration of socially vulnerable groups of people in the study programmes. To ensure the combating of xenophobia and racism against foreign students, especially outside of EU, university creates the same life conditions as to other DU students. The information about these students is published in order to prove that any individual can fit in our society and we can benefit from it.

Also, DU has prioritised to continue strengthening international content of curriculum, international research cooperation, outgoing and incoming mobility opportunities and learning experiences both for students (study abroad and international internship) and staff, bilateral international student exchanges, marketing and promoting DU internationally and international development and capacity building projects.

Current DU strategy envisages that DU has to become a modern, internationally recognized and prestige university, taking part in the common European academic education and science space. In order to achieve this and increase the quality of exchange, DU needs to develop new and strengthen existing cooperation with the EU and non-EU partners, and it includes the following aspects of internationalization:

- Involve and play an active role in international university associations and other organizations.
- In cooperation with foreign universities to develop double, multiple and joint degrees.

- Develop and implement international study courses in any of the official EU languages.
- Attract competent foreign staff to implement study programmes.
- Develop and implement DU marketing strategy, including curriculum measures to promote in Latvian and international environment.
- Supplement the study and research literature in foreign languages.
- Promote and support involvement of DU students and academic staff in international academic projects (summer academy / school, student and teacher exchange programmes, exchange of experience, etc.).
- Develop and implement intensive language courses for foreigners in English, Latvian, German, Russian and other languages.
- Provide explanatory, full – fledged and easy to take information about study opportunities in at least two foreign languages, improving DU web page and internal information sharing system.

DU is planning to focus on priorities such as internationalisation, science, research, mobility, innovation in teaching and training. DU will make emphasis on the cooperation with higher education institutions, research centres and enterprises balanced both in EU and non – EU countries.

Use of Horizon 2020 – the framework programme for research and innovation will cover all relevant EU research and innovation funding, ensuring a high degree of policy coordination and maximising synergies between initiatives.

There are number of expected developments using European Social Fund for education and training.

Programme support and impact is particularly important for the implementation of new ideas, experiences, professional skills, improvement of language and communication skills, networking and overcoming geographic barriers in educational space in EU and non – EU countries that generally promote the enhancement of the quality of degree programmes offered. Thus the quality of curriculum, the quality of cooperation among different member states of EU and cross-border countries, the quality of development strategy are improved and the range of partners involved in joint projects is enlarged.

Daugavpils University is expected to make every effort to achieve the best practice of participation in the Programme on the modernisation of University and to contribute to the European Union's modernisation and internationalisation agenda in higher education, which includes 5 priorities:

- 1) Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs.
- 2) Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.
- 3) Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation.
- 4) Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.
- 5) Improving governance and funding.