



D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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 area(s) and 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. (max. 5000 characters)

Internationalisation is a core component of the strategic vision of UNIMC. The University is strongly committed to a policy aimed at making the international dimension increasingly embedded in its research and teaching activities. The driving idea is that internationalisation should be a mean and not an end by itself. We do believe that internationalisation will be a crucial tool to further increase the quality of our research and teaching by linking them with the main and most updated development within the changing academic world. The new and complex challenges that the global market pose to Higher education require an approach that goes beyond the national dimension travelling with openness and determination through the path of interdependence and networking. To this regard the University of Macerata, strongly believes that internationalisation means also retrieving ancient and too long forgotten practices of ancient scholarly traditions which were driven by a constant curiosity for the outer world and a dynamic exchange among different schools.

It has to be recalled that the University of Macerata has a rather unique feature of offering only disciplines among the fields of Humanities and Social sciences, therefore for internationalisation is, if possible, an even more relevant and crucial component of whatever strategic plan. In fact, the quest for dialogue, exchange and networking is embedded in the very spirit and scholarly tradition of those disciplines.

Within this perspective the strategy that UNIMC has adopted in its process of internationalisation has followed a twofold approach. At EU level the main aim has been to strengthen the web of partner Universities within the Erasmus network. The main goal has been to enlarge the opportunities for staff and student mobility within the European scholarly space offering chances for dialogue and collaboration with significantly different academic environments. To this regard the focus has not been geographical but rather disciplinary, focusing on universities with similar disciplinary approaches.

Beyond the EU boundaries the strategy of international partnership followed by UNIMC has been driven by three major priorities, namely, the attention to neighbouring regions such as the Balkans and the Middle East; fostering academic cooperation with strong centres of excellence such as the US, Canada, Argentina and Australia; finally developing strong links with the new frontiers of excellence in emerging countries such as China, India, Brasil and in the near future, South Africa.

Within this twofold strategy the main aim has been to give a wide range of opportunities for both staff and students to get exposed to different academic environments and, thus, to enrich and diversify their skills and knowledge. Within the Erasmus framework the main target group for international mobility in terms of both financial resources and number of participants have been students, both at BA and MA level. To this end the University, beside the EU funded scholarship add its own grant, in order to make Erasmus mobility affordable also for disadvantaged students.

With regard to staff a major emphasis is put on young researcher that are strongly encouraged to enlarge their international connection and to link their research with colleagues all over Europe. To this end the University, beside the Erasmus mobility framework makes available special grants reserved to young researchers that want to spend a research period abroad from a minimum of three to a maximum of 6 months.

Finally, within UNIMC internationalisation strategy an important role has been assigned to the implementation of Double degrees. In the last three years four double degrees have been launched in the field of linguistics, Tourism, and International economic and trade relations. The main philosophy inspiring this accrued effort towards the launching of double degrees has been to consider them as both a tool to improve the teaching performances of the involved departments and to increase the chances of our students to have access to the job market. international experience of staff and students. We look at Double degrees as a unique opportunity to test the ability of the involved institutions to meet the standards and expectations of the global world of education by sharing methodologies and developing negotiating skills. Moreover, Double degrees offer to both staff and students the unique experience of having to teach and learn in a highly diverse and complex environment, which forces to constantly enlarge cultural boundaries in a increasingly more inclusive perspective.

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. (max. 2000 characters).



The University of Macerata has invested a lot of resources in building up administrative capabilities aimed at making more effective the involvement of faculties in the EU research frameworks. To this regard the first major steps have been the strengthening of an European desk office within the International Research Office and the recruitment of new administrative staff with a specific training in this field. Within this perspective a special emphasis has been put on dissemination activities aimed at increasing the awareness of faculties on the sundry research opportunities available at European level. Part of this activities are APRE workshops; workshops on the expected developments of Horizon 2020. Part of this effort is also the financial support to the involvement of researcher in EU research scheme, attendance to workshops on those issues.

UNIMC is a university which a unique specialisation in the fields of Social sciences and Humanities, therefore the main focus in its cooperation projects has been within the SSH framework. The University has a strong tradition in ICT in the field of humanities and within this framework a special attention has been put to cooperation projects. Finally, a special emphasis has been put on the involvement in Marie Curies research schemes as a crucial tool for young researcher to build up research networks and to be actively involved in processes of knowledge transfer.

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. (max. 3000 characters).

The UNIMC looks at internationalisation policies as tools to achieve significant developments in its institutional mission (research and teaching) and in the interaction of this mission with the local environment as well as the global market. Therefore the first major expectation that UNIMC has toward EU Programmes is to further increase the quality of its teaching and research activities through the dynamic and interactive contamination with different scholarly traditions and the challenges of meeting the standards of global education. The emphasis on international curricula taught in English and the establishment of Double degrees programmes is not aimed at a mere increase of the number of students through the recruitment of international students but is rather an effort to set up a benchmark that goes beyond the conventional and increasingly narrow cultural boundaries of national academic systems. Through the development of international mobility, particularly from Third countries the University is able to test its ability bright international students and researcher and creates an open academic environment which is beneficial to staff, Italian students and the whole local community. Consistently with this approach UNIMC is engaging actively in the process of multiranking in order to assess the standard of its performances but also trying to contribute to the global dialogue on the effectiveness and scientific reliability of ranking systems. With regard to students, the University of Macerata looks at international mobility and cooperation also as a crucial tool to enrich their training and to widen their opportunities to compete in the global market by meeting the increasingly diversified needs of employers both at the local as well as international level. To this regard the Erasmus framework has revealed to be a formidable experience not just in academic terms but more broadly in terms of life experience, as it provides students with crucial skills for their future life such as the ability to cope and negotiate with a different social and cultural environment, the ability to build and develop networks in an unknown world.

Another expected improvement is in the interaction between the university and its surrounding environment. Through EU mobility schemes as well as the Double Degrees strategy the University expects to make effective the knowledge triangle by taking into account in its research as well as in the planning of its course offerings both the experience of partner universities and the needs of local stakeholders. Within the same framework the University of Macerata has also decided to invest new resources in a complex strategy aimed at disseminating awareness about opportunities for young entrepreneurs. To this regard a specific office has been opened the Industrial Liaison Office (ILO) which assist potential young entrepreneurs from the collection of information on law and regulations all the way to the launching of start-ups.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)