

Erasmus Policy Statement

Turība University is one of the largest institutions of higher education in Latvia and the largest private university in the Baltics with a clearly defined vision of the future - a university of lifestyle and a flagship of business education in Europe. Our mission is to advance a paradigm shift by promoting an understanding of business environment processes and a sustainable lifestyle. *Turība University* offers 26 study programs in 7 study directions, including college programs, bachelor's, master's and doctoral study programs in social sciences and engineering. Around 3500 students from 45 countries study at the university. Taking into account that *Turība University* is a relatively new university, international exchange programs provide invaluable assistance in raising academic quality. One of *Turība University's* priority development directions is international recognition and participation in the development of international education and in attracting of foreign students. At the moment, cooperation in various projects and programs has been developed with 150 different institutions of higher education and universities in 47 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. Cooperation takes place within the framework of student and teacher mobility and research programs - Erasmus+, Nord Plus, international cooperation programs, as well as 16 double diploma programs have been established, and student exchanges are taking place on the basis of bilateral cooperation.

By obtaining the Erasmus Charter, we plan to participate in all activities offered by the Erasmus program, with an emphasis on mobility, as well as strategic partnerships with our current or future partners.

In the next period, within the framework of the program, we plan to intensify several types of mobility by setting them as priorities. These are internship opportunities for business administration, communication and information technology students, as well as to intensify the mobility of master's and doctoral students. Furthermore, using the opportunity to ensure the mobility of experience exchange of academic and administrative staff, we intend to develop *Turība University's* management in cooperation with partner universities.

By participating in the Erasmus program, we want to further diversify the geographical representation of our foreign students, focusing more on European and American countries, as set out in *Turība University's* new strategy for years 2021-2025.

Currently, *Turība University* implements 14 double diploma programs in all faculties with partners in Great Britain, France, Spain, Finland, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Taiwan. The most intensive cooperation has been established with partners in France and Finland, where we also implement two double degree programs at the master's level. Using the new program, we plan to expand the number of double degree programs directly at the master's level, as well as with partners from third countries.

With the new program, we envisage the opportunity to expand geographically the opportunities for our students and faculty to do fieldwork in guest lecturing and internships outside the EU. Taking into account the programs offered by our university and the compulsory internships included in them, as well as the growing number of non-EU students, we plan to pay much more attention to the use of internships within the framework of the program both inside and outside the EU, with an emphasis on internships in business administration, communication and information technology students at all levels of study. We also plan to make more use of opportunities for lecturers to participate in guest lecturing in third countries, which we successfully started within the framework of the Mundus project and the Erasmus+ project in previous years.

By participating in the new program, we hope to reach a larger number of third-country students, as these students are among the most interested in these programs, as well as

taking into account the demographic situation in Latvia. Our current strategy is based on the internationalization of the university and the qualitative increase in attracting third-country students to full-time studies. Internationalization also involves expanding the range of partners inside and outside the EU, and the opportunities offered by the new program will expand this opportunity. Attracting new students, as well as attracting guest lecturers from other countries certainly helps not only to increase the number of university graduates, but also to increase quality, as the university, its staff and faculty are forced to adapt to changing circumstances, as these people come with their study experience, work experience which gives a new insight into the methodology, study tools, and also forces to improve its quality. To highlight, opportunities of the new program extends mobility opportunities also outside the European Union.

Whereas, staff mobility is planned to be used to make the management of the university more effective by sharing experience and gaining new experience from partners, developing new study methods and forms. The opening of a business incubator at the university has made the connection between studies and real business more effective, as well as the university, as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, intends to effectively use the international contacts of this partnership to strengthen education and business. Within the framework of the new program, we also want to increase the number of foreign guest lecturers at the university, reaching their share of 10% of the total number of academic staff at the end of the program.

To increase student mobility by 10% annually compared to the previous year, which will give more *Turība University* students international study experience.

In order to ensure non-discriminatory attraction of students to the program, the possibility to use an Erasmus mobility scholarship and study at a partner university is determined by foreign language skills and study progress in the previous study period, which gives all students equal opportunities to participate in the program.

For the mobility of the academic staff, the selection criteria are the academic staff's knowledge of foreign languages, as well as the current activity in the mobility programs, taking into account the higher education institution's goal to provide an opportunity for all teaching staff to do fieldwork at a partner university.

When informing students about the possibilities of the Erasmus program, one of the advantages of this program will be the goal of implementing this program without documents in paper form, fully digitizing it. Already in 2021, we will conclude an inter-university agreement only digitally, and in accordance with the European Student Card initiative implementation schedule, we will encourage both students and partner universities to ensure student application for studies and documentation only in the online environment.

Already now many areas of the management at *Turība University* are preformed online, avoiding environmentally unfriendly policies and reducing the use of paper documents. This is fully in line with the new Erasmus student card program, which aims to fully digitize the Erasmus program by 2025. Also, our new university strategy for 2021-2025 envisages the following goals, which correspond to both environmentally friendly and sustainable policy - studies at *Turība University* are characterized by interdisciplinarity, internationalization, technologies (integrated in all fields of study) and enrichment of personality development experience (opportunity to express oneself, make mistakes, formulate reasoned judgments and become enterprising).

Incoming students are provided with all information about study courses and study schedule before arrival. Upon arrival in cooperation with the Student Council, a "buddy" service is provided, when local students help foreign students to become familiar with the university, Latvian language courses, various thematic events, excursions are organized. Informative meetings are organized for outgoing students in cooperation with the Student Council, where information on exchange program opportunities is provided. At a later stage, outgoing students are provided with information about the host universities and internships, assistance in drawing up documents and information on everyday issues in the host country. Involvement of Student Council in the implementation of the Erasmus program, as well as invitation to both incoming and outgoing students to actively participate in the work of Student Council, promotes their civic activity and growth, as well as the ability to take responsibility for their own lives and its development.

In accordance with the university's internal regulations, students who have gone to a partner university within the framework of mobility programs are recognized for all study courses that are included in the tripartite study agreement signed by all parties. Credit points are credited to the students who go for internship for the time spent in it and for the successful defence of the internship report.

The opportunity for the academic staff and staff of the university to participate in guest lecturing and experience exchange visits, takes place in accordance with the internal regulatory enactments of the university, as well as information is disseminated at the meetings of the department and meetings of structural units. Time spent on mobility is included in their length of service and workload.

In order to successfully ensure the above-mentioned goals for the implementation of the Lifelong Learning Program, the Erasmus University Charter and the Erasmus Policy Statement will be published on the *Turība University's* website www.turiba.lv, in the section of student opportunities to study abroad, the Student Council will be regularly informed about it. Students will be informed about the activities of the program through the student magazine "B format" and in the media.

At *Turība University*, the International Office is responsible for organizing mobility programs. Its tasks also include attracting foreign full-time students, coordinating international projects, coordinating exchange programs, and coordinating double degree programs. The recognition of study courses and internship terms for students who have gone through mobility programs is the responsibility of the faculties, however the observance of the principles of the Erasmus Charter in the faculties is supervised by the International Office.