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Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

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)

Original language [EN]

Internationalisation is a priority and an obvious means to achieve higher quality in education and research at Stockholm University. The overall strategy for international cooperation is based on the University's future vision that the majority of our teaching and research programs will be nationally outstanding and internationally prominent. The second phrase refers to the University's ongoing plans to promote increased internationalisation in order to strengthen the University's standing in relation to top universities worldwide. The overall goals of internationalisation can be found in the University's long-term plan and the annual plan.

Working towards a more prominent international position assumes that the University is actively working with internationalisation. Stockholm University should be an attractive institution for both Swedish and foreign students and researchers. An educational environment of high quality at Stockholm University is characterised by a lively international exchange in education at all levels. An active and increased incoming and outgoing mobility of students, teachers, staff and researchers as well as the recruitment of researchers and students from other countries can contribute to such an environment as international students and teachers are important parts of this environment. Internationalisation strengthens the quality of education by providing perspectives and experiences from international teaching and academic environments and conditions. The students, teachers and researchers who travel abroad may experience a new perspective and possibly new methods of teaching and research and a better understanding of their respective subjects. An international exchange or internship is a valuable academic and personal experience for students and teachers. For students, it may be an important qualification for future employment at both the national and international job market. The international character of research must be emphasised and it is important the University's researchers participate in international scientific discussions and conferences to present research findings as well as publish the results of research both nationally and internationally.

The main objective of the University's international cooperation agreements is to strengthen the quality of research and education. The agreements create opportunities and conditions to interact with the global research and education community. The cooperation also enhances the University's competitiveness both internationally and nationally. International exchange in education and research is also important in the aspect of strengthening development as well as the democratisation and modernisation processes.

International cooperation at Stockholm University is based on a decentralised responsibility with the main principle that departments independently develop their contacts and collaborations. The departments are the basis of the University's internationalisation efforts. The aim is that internationalisation should be conducted at the most appropriate level. Departmental agreements constitute the majority of the international agreements and the departments should have cooperation agreements with other universities both within and outside Europe that are relevant and match the department's research and education.

Cooperation at the departmental level provides better opportunities for academic quality and integration of student and teacher exchanges in education planning. University wide agreements should be seen as complementary to the departmental agreements and the number of central agreements is therefore kept at a limited level. European collaboration is preferably concluded at departmental or faculty level. It is an important principle for the University that the departments develop their own international contacts based on their independent assessments of academic interests and other considerations. There is therefore no central control of the direction of the University's cooperation although there are guidelines and criteria for international cooperation and agreements. The purpose of the guidelines is to clarify how international cooperation agreements should be conducted with regard to the University's principles and objectives. The suitability to sign cooperation agreements should be decided case by case. To ensure the quality of cooperation agreements they should be regularly monitored by those signing the agreements, preferably in consultation with the faculty and the central support functions. Monitoring should then be done with consideration of the criteria below and the university's overall goals for internationalisation.

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)

Original language [EN]

International cooperation at Stockholm University is based at the departmental level. In order to increase internationalisation the University encourages participation in all relevant programmes, especially EU programmes, within education and research that can stimulate and support international cooperation. The University is active in international cooperation and participates in a range of different cooperation projects. The experience and outcomes of these different cooperation projects are valuable for the continuous work to increase internationalisation at the University. The International Office provides various types of support to departments in their international collaboration efforts and works to increase participation in cooperation projects under the Programme by offering administrative support, advice and relevant and updated programme information.

Stockholm University is part of a network of European universities which includes cooperation in many different areas and levels. Through this network academic excellence, integration and co-operation between member universities throughout Europe can be promoted.

The University also works with university wide cooperation projects, mainly outside Europe. The idea is to establish longstanding relations with a few selected institutions, seeking high quality relationships for a broad cooperation including research collaboration as well as student and staff exchange. With these institutions the University exchanges deeper knowledge about its educational programs and research projects. As a means to encourage and stimulate international collaboration with strategic partner universities Stockholm University has earmarked funding for the collaboration with these institutions. This funding has been made available to both research and administrative staff. Cooperation with the selected partner institutions may also include other projects within the EU programmes.

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)

Original language [EN]

The main responsibilities of Stockholm University are to teach and carry out research of the highest quality as well as to collaborate with other sectors of the community. The University is distinguished by its free pursuit of knowledge, objective research and critical thought, all of which engages the University in upholding its integrity and independence and fostering a scientific approach to academic knowledge through its teaching. At another level, as a cultural institution, defender of democratic values and forum for open debate, the University has to nurture the development of individual talents that will contribute to a humane and sustainable society. Stockholm University is an institution characterised by equality and openness and issues concerning the special needs of diverse groups in society are an important priority. Stockholm University conducts training at undergraduate and graduate levels of high quality and is an attractive university for both Swedish and foreign students. Stockholm University has traditionally been able to offer a wide range of courses, giving students a great freedom to choose courses leading to a degree. University courses should be designed in collaboration with the surrounding community so that students increasingly can become an asset to society when they graduate. The University will work to improve students' establishment opportunities already during their time at the University through increasing their contacts with the business community and the public and voluntary sectors. Students will when graduating be well prepared for both the national and international academic and labour market.

The independent and critical thinking of PhD students should be promoted, and training at the doctoral level should prepare students for academic research as well as other knowledge-intensive professions. PhD studies should help meet the needs of society for qualified generalists and specialists. Cross-disciplinary research should be promoted and collaboration between different areas of science and different university faculties encouraged.

The University's teaching and research will also be distinguished by its cooperation with other tertiary institutions in the nearby region, across Sweden as well as internationally. The University has developed connections with schools in order to promote quality in the schools and pave the way for university recruitment from the whole community. Cooperation is well developed with other sectors of community, especially in the Stockholm region, where the University promotes collaboration with regional municipalities, national agencies and knowledge-based enterprises.

The University's long-term and annual plans are the overall governing documents for the university's internal quality management. Quality work is thus an integral part of the overall planning and monitoring of University activities.

