



## 1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

### 1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

#### Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

#### Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

#### Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:



## 1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

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

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area<sup>1</sup> and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

In 2019 Stockholm University adopted its long-term plan for international activities, Global Engagement, which is based on Stockholm University's comprehensive strategies. The plan presents the central starting points for international activities at Stockholm University. For example, the Global Engagement states that the University will work to ensure an international academic environment imbued with excellence and improved conditions for international recruitment, mobility and collaboration. The ambitions are high: "A changing environment, with fact resistance and nationalist currents, affect the universities' assignments and make it particularly important to safeguard an inclusive, international openness", says the plan, among other things. The University administration works actively to provide coherent support to international activities, such as the Erasmus programme, and thus contributes to increased international collaboration through more incoming and outgoing students, teachers and staff, researchers and postdocs.

In several areas of education and research, Stockholm University is among the most prominent institutions in the world and the intention is to further develop this position. A changing world fraught with fact resistance and nationalist tendencies affects the mission of universities and makes it particularly important to safeguard inclusive, international openness. Since its foundation, knowledge, enlightenment and truth-seeking, together with critical thinking, have been the cornerstones of Stockholm University. Stockholm University strives to have internationally competitive research and education. Today, the University contributes to Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the global sustainability goals through its extensive education, research and collaboration. With the highest number of students in Sweden, and with our strong basic research profile, we also play a central role in society.

By offering 1700 high quality elective courses, within a big variety of subject fields, during day time and in evenings, on campus and virtually, and on different study pace, Stockholm University contributes to lifelong learning for all - both national and incoming Erasmus students. The University also supports the right to quality and inclusive education, including those facing disadvantages, or having special needs. The goal is to offer all students an opportunity to study on equal terms, so everyone can fulfil their potential.

The "Strategies for Stockholm University 2019-2022" states that international mobility within education should increase. Global collaboration and good international relations should be based on needs identified

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)



by the core operations. The continued development of our work with strategic partner universities as well as our active participation in international networks, particularly at the European level, are important components of the University's international profile and the Erasmus programme helps us fulfil many of our international objectives.

The main objective of the international cooperation agreements is to strengthen the quality of education and research. International cooperation and exchange in education and research is also important to strengthen the development and democratization and modernization processes. 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 this. Internationalization strengthens the quality of education by providing perspectives and experiences from international teaching and academic environments and conditions. Students should, when graduating, be well prepared for both the national and international academic and labour market. Having gained international experience may also be of high importance for personal growth and for the development of cultural and linguistic skills.

Stockholm University will continue its efforts to increase student mobility through the Erasmus programme and is strongly committed to contributing to the European Education Area through working towards seamless mobility across borders, for students, researchers and staff. Through our dedication to the European Universities network CIVIS, which was awarded funding in 2019, we have ambitious goals and by developing a specific offer of short-term and blended student mobility, CIVIS will enhance and strengthen collaboration and mutual learning between the institutions in the network, and will allow students to develop high-level skills and to benefit from study and employment opportunities abroad. The emphasis on virtual mobility will also limit carbon footprint as well as facilitate participation by students who may have difficulties to go abroad for longer periods of time. By concrete commitments to significantly increase mobility, both physical and virtual, CIVIS will also cultivate a "sense of belonging" to a Europe-wide University, will strengthen students' linguistic and intercultural skills, expose them to other cultures and methods of teaching and learning, and will at the same time strengthen their sense of the European identity. The objectives for CIVIS mobility are to enable seamless and multi-dimensional mobility models (physical, virtual or blended) and to foster the creation of an inter-university campus, to provide CIVIS students with a range of pedagogically sound, service learning projects that foster civic engagement and transversal skills.

CIVIS is a far-reaching initiative which aims to create a truly unique European interuniversity campus where students, academics, researchers and staff will move, study and collaborate seamlessly within the alliance. As such, it aims to contribute actively to the modernisation of the European Education Area. To support the Alliance's objectives, the universities intend to make use of the various actions of the future Erasmus programme:

To facilitate the mobility of our university staff and students, our member universities have signed institutional bilateral Erasmus agreements between all universities and initiated calls for short term mobilities (KA1, mobility). CIVIS's long-term goal is to develop a deep level of European integration, involving joint learning pathways, development of complementary research facilities and diverse degree pathways turned towards solving societal challenges at regional, national and international level. These ambitious goals can be supported through Partnerships for Innovation (KA2) and Support to policy development and Cooperation (KA3).

In addition, we firmly believe that the future of Europe and that of Africa are intertwined. This is why CIVIS will affirm its vocation as a bridge between Europe, the Mediterranean and Africa, as part of a long-term commitment, and foster collaboration in education and research with our Mediterranean and African partners. International mobility projects (such as the existing KA107) will be crucial in helping us meet this objective.

By collaboration closely within CIVIS, the members of the network intend to, by pooling resources and structuring a joint education and research offer around five societal challenges, address the skill shortages that Europe faces while at the same addressing major societal challenges at local, European and international level. In addition, the goal is to contribute to local dialogues around local problems, bringing education, research, innovation and, where useful, public-private partnerships, to bear on the search for solutions.



Artificial intelligence and digitalisation, climate crisis and sustainability issues, migration and integration, knowledge resistance and populism, democracy and human rights – many things are coming to a head in these changing times. The University's task is to stand firmly grounded in its centuries-old tradition, present in the now, looking towards the future. Students, teachers and researchers develop the University together and contribute to society with science-based knowledge.

In times of crisis, such as the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, the academic community must stand strong. Understanding globalization and how countries are interlinked, becomes even more important. Through the Erasmus programme, Stockholm University, together with its partners, can exchange best practices and support students in achieving skills necessary to build a better future. The impressively fast switch to one hundred percent online teaching shows that digital learning is indeed possible. At the same time, it is important to offer sufficient support to students and staff to manage the transformation and adaptation to new working methods. However, technology, teaching methods and digital skills can be further developed, possibly also through projects within the Erasmus programme.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

Stockholm University has an organization with strong independent departments. International cooperation is therefore based on a decentralized responsibility where the departments independently develop their contacts and collaboration. It is an important principle for the University that the departments develop their own international contacts based on their independent assessment of academic interests and other considerations. To ensure quality of cooperation agreements and to strengthen the strategic work at all levels, there are university wide guidelines for both entering and evaluating a cooperation, which rely on the principles and objectives of the University. Because of the variety of academic areas, forms of education, size and different strategies at the departments, Stockholm University aims to participate in all actions of the Erasmus programme. This gives the departments a possibility to actively, and by their own choice and focus, participate in the different activities the Erasmus programme has to offer. When a department shows interest in a given cooperation project there are administrative support functions, both on departmental and central level, in order to facilitate participation. Stockholm University has a strong tradition of collaboration both within the Nordic region and with the rest of Europe and will actively contribute to European education and research collaboration. Through the departments' participation in the different parts of the Erasmus programme, and the University's participation in CIVIS (European Universities) we all contribute to achieving the objectives of the international strategy of the University, such as an international academic environment imbued with excellence and improved conditions for international recruitment, mobility and collaboration. Stockholm University aims at coordinating more Nordic and European collaboration projects, while also establishing more long-term partnerships outside Europe.

Stockholm University has a long tradition of receiving foreign students, something that is continuously promoted. The University is aiming to prioritize activities that allow students' international experiences to further increase, for example through mobility windows in education programmes, virtual courses and the possibility of stays abroad of various lengths of time. The University will also continue to promote the importance of language skills, for example by offering all students to attend language tandem and cafés. In addition, beginner courses in Swedish are offered to all incoming students and staff.

Stockholm University focuses on education in close interaction with outstanding research. The University has a high proportion of internationally recruited teachers and researchers who contribute to its international environment. Together with our internationally mixed student groups (made possible by the Erasmus programme), this contributes to the natural development of international perspectives in teaching. This may be further enhanced by deepening the engagement of visiting scholars and teachers.



The University's teachers' participation in pedagogically oriented exchange programmes, such as Erasmus, increases the internationalization of teaching and should therefore be promoted. Internationalization is considered to be a concern for everyone at the University, therefore all administrative staff members are encouraged to participate in staff mobility and to be involved in internationalization projects. Staff mobility (for teaching and for training) raises awareness of important aspects of internationalization, which helps to shift the internal culture of the institution towards internationalization and thus create a systematic change.

As a capital university, Stockholm University has an important mission to ensure that the generated knowledge will be of value to the surrounding society, both nationally and internationally. The University will remain visible and continue to exercise international influence through participation in key strategic networks, such as CIVIS (European Universities). This work is made possible, inter alia, by the commitment of the University's teachers and researchers. Through its international collaborations in the fields of environmental issues and social and economic sustainability, the University will continue to contribute to the achievement of the objectives set forth in Agenda 2030, to tackle global societal challenges. Sustainable development is a central to Stockholm University. The University is engaged in numerous projects within both natural and human science, and its research and education touch upon and help in the achievement of Agenda 2030's goals. Stockholm University's other strengths include the tradition of interdisciplinary research as seen in its profile areas and in its work within the society through open lectures, participating in governmental commissions and contributing to public debate. There is also a close cooperation with other authorities in the Higher Education sector as well as with Swedish foreign missions abroad. Capacity-building activities will also be promoted

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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Quality assurance is an integral part of the overall planning and monitoring of the University's activities. The departments and administration offices are encouraged to further develop plans and strategies, including monitoring activities, both for their national and international endeavors that suit their needs and directions for collaboration. Hence, the targets and impact vary from department to department. The University's strategies set out the overall direction for the next four years. They are a common starting point for the area-specific strategies developed for Science and Human Science. The central strategies are complemented by a two-year action plan, and action plans are also being developed within the two scientific areas as well as for operational support. All action plans are continuously followed up.

According to the "Strategies for Stockholm University 2019-2022", international collaboration should increase within courses and programmes at the bachelor's and master's levels, for example by encouraging students to take courses or carry out degree projects at foreign universities. The participation of Stockholm University in the Erasmus programme until today has, among other things, lead to a large number of courses being taught in English across the whole University. Today 65 percent of the courses and programmes at the masters' level are already held in English and, in addition, various language courses are offered. The University continues to strive towards an increased international environment by creating more contact areas for foreign and local students. This is also done through the continued development of course content and pedagogical tools, such as PhD student supervision with international partners and (via digital tools) joint online courses.



Through regular network meetings with departmental Erasmus exchange coordinators, the Erasmus Institutional Coordinator has a network for both spreading information about the international strategies for the University as well as about the Erasmus programme and its implementation. A coordinated approach regarding Erasmus rules, administration and implementation is important for efficiency and equal implementation. The Erasmus Institutional Coordinator offers knowledge transfer and training to departmental coordinators in order to keep up the high quality of implementation and support for participants. The close collaboration also enables monitoring, both through random checks and through pre-announced ones.

All grant administration, including the OLS, is administered centrally. The routine guarantees that all mandatory documentation is in place before a payment is made. By fully implementing the European Student Card Initiative new administrative routines for signing inter-institutional agreements, Learning Agreements and nomination/applications will be implemented at the University. The change makes it possible for all participants to be treated and supported in the same way, irrespectively of home department. It also gives the centrally run International Mobility Office a possibility to monitor the processes.

The decentralized organization of the University leads to students having different opportunities to participate in international exchanges. However, the administration of CIVIS (European Universities) is placed at a central level which enables the University to increase the exchange possibilities on all levels and to give everyone a possibility to take advantage of the actions offered by the Erasmus programme.

Through participation in CIVIS, Stockholm University has committed to highly increase its number of mobile students and its participation in cooperation projects connected to the Erasmus programme. CIVIS is an engagement for the entire University and its impact on the University's internationalization efforts is fundamental. Creating seamless and multi-dimensional mobility models (physically, virtually or blended) will enable 10% student mobility within the Alliance by 2022 and by 2025 the objective is 50%.

The students at Stockholm University are in general older than the average university student in Europe, may have children and work part-time beside their studies. Some of the programmes offered at the University include periods of placement which can be carried out in Sweden or abroad. The development and implementation of short term and blended mobility is expected to increase the diversity of participating students and will meet the demand from the University's student cohort.