

## Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

The University of Information Technology and Management's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities such as mobility, multilateral projects and thematic networks, and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007 – 2013) are described below.

The University of Information Technology and Management was founded in 1996 during a time of great political, social and economic change – with the integration of Europe and the technology revolution brought on by the increasing popularity of the Internet. These two factors have played a key role in determining the expansion and development of our University.

From the beginning, the University of Information Technology and Management's philosophy has been to provide quality educational programs geared to serve those seeking a solid foundation in knowledge and skills to be competitive in the job market and to obtain successful employment involving the application of space-age information technologies.

Both faculty members: lecturers and research fellows, as well as seconded staff put much effort into sustaining high, international teaching and research standards. The constant analysis of market demands together with highly flexible organizational structure of the University allow us to evaluate and update our teaching and research profile not only to provide students with up-to-date, reliable and quality knowledge but also to strengthen our responsiveness to market requirements and opportunities.

The University of Information Technology and Management has been participating in the SOCRATES/ERASMUS program since year 2000, successfully realizing student and faculty exchanges with partner institutions in Germany, Finland, Spain, Portugal and Denmark. We hope to develop our international contacts within the Programme so that in the future we'd be able to both send and receive students from all European countries.

The UITM has planned specific actions that will give visibility to Erasmus activities. It will be given special types of publicity to the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS. Furthermore, the UITM will ensure a different kind of arrangements to comply with non-discrimination objectives, for example: actions related to gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism.

The UITM Department of International Cooperation will lead a promotional-informational campaign to inform students and faculty about the SOCRATES program. In order to reach the greatest number of students, we will use the announcement boards, open meetings and electronic information stands to promote SOCRATES. Information will be published on our website and sent to students' and faculty e-mail accounts on a regular basis. All students and teachers interested in the Erasmus Programme will be informed about the conditions and requirements for student/staff mobility also during the University's Open Days. An Internet service will provide the study program catalog in English and Polish. International students will have easy access to the information they need in deciding whether to study at UITM.

Our exchange policy will ensure equal treatment regardless of sex or physical abilities. This topic is especially discussed during meetings with students. Financially needy students will also have access to a scholarship fund which may cover costs not included in the grant.

Our EPS as well as EUC will be published on the University's website and available to all students and staff.

Many specific measures will be implemented in the UITM to ensure high quality in academic mobility activities.

The improvement recognition of education received in Poland is of great importance. The ECTS and "The Diploma Supplement" have been successfully implemented in our University in all degree programs. An important factor in the quality of the MO activity is the appropriate recruitment and selection of candidates. The results of the processes will be documented. The selection criteria will include: grades and foreign language skills. We will promote Erasmus to the students involved in our Association for Talented Students who have their grade point average of 4.0 or higher. Faculty mobility plays a crucial role for developing a European dimension within and among universities in Europe. These activities include teaching periods abroad at partner universities within Erasmus program or conducting intensive courses prepared by an international group of lecturers and professionals for international students. Erasmus mobility is acknowledged for the career advancement of a teacher. The University also concentrates on assuring its students and staff high level of foreign language skills. The Centre for Modern Languages leads this efforts, as both the focus of language teaching and international certification programs. Language classes are conducted by experienced teachers. Classes are small and supported by modern methodologies, audio-visual and multi-media tools, based on the recommendations of the European Council. The study programs for all the faculties include international language exams organized with International Certificate Conference and London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Learning is enhanced through additional language courses and summer language school organized during holiday camps abroad. Students who come to us from abroad will receive an information packet about the University as well as the city where it is located. The University will help these students to find accommodation. We offer linguistic preparation for incoming Erasmus students. We also organize cultural and international programs and the "Buddy System".

The UITM will bring specific measures to ensure high quality in students placements. All practical arrangements agreed between the parties are monitored and constantly evaluated.

UITM tries to popularize the idea of equal chances for education for all young people interested in deepening their knowledge and achieving the qualifications required on the developing labour market. Problems related to Polish integration with the European Union are important elements of developing the educational systems – in this field the authorities of the University see great possibilities to increase qualifications for people coming from rural areas or national minorities living in the Podkarpacie Province.

The University gives its students the opportunity to spend their internship in foreign companies in the USA, UK or Germany. The basic requirement for the students willing to enter the program are good foreign language abilities. The internship is a great chance to improve language skills, as well as a possibility to observe the structure and work of particular company departments. During the internship, students take part in various professional training and obtain certificates.

It all requires an expenditure of time and appropriate measures directed to arranging broad contacts on a European scale just to enhance the chances of development of the University itself and its students. These opportunities to gain experience and increase qualifications are provided to all students, giving them more opportunities to gain the skills that are the basis of their full and extensive educational background as the future employees of Europe.

The present projects are oriented for arranging new contacts and long-term, ongoing partnership with the centers dealing, for many years, with educating students in Europe. The reason for such an action is to create the best possible opportunities to graduate future employees with abilities and skills required on the European market and to give students leaving the University the occasion to plan their professional careers, not only in their own country, but first of all – in Europe.