

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

International collaboration, EU and non-EU, is second nature to Kristianstad University and we are active proponents of international mobility. Kristianstad University feel s duty bound to promote an environment in which students and faculty collaborate to cultivate understanding of other cultures and traditions. Kristianstad University has built an internationalization effort that includes student exchange programmes, teacher and staff exchanges, research collaboration, contract education, degree projects in other countries and competitive intelligence.

Kristianstad University aims to increase the international mobility of students as well as employees. The internationalization within our education is an important part of efforts made to increase its quality and attractiveness. English language courses are to be further developed in strategically important areas. Internationalization at the University will be strengthened by

- introducing international perspective and elements in education
- developing and assuring the quality of an efficient infrastructure for international exchange
- further develop Work related learning studies abroad, or as in Swedish, Verksamhetsförlagd utbildning, further mentioned as (vfu), which is partly based on the experience gained in teacher education.

(from Strategy 2009-2014, §5)

The University has established an International Board with the objectives to:

- create an effective organization for internationalization
- clarify the distribution of the work between different parts of the organization
- emphasize and clarify the University's policy for internationalization
- support and facilitate the entire organization to work according to the action plan targets
- make decisions on matters requiring coordination between the different parts of the organization

The international dimension is significant for the aim of realizing the vision "To educate the most employable students in Sweden", both to strengthen and deepen the quality of education, research, co-operation and support. In the context of an increasingly global employment market, international experience gives a greater competitive advantage and contributes to personal development.

Kristianstad University works for an increased international mobility between different educational systems and labor market, by supporting and facilitating international mobility, as well as other forms of international co-operation. Furthermore, Kristianstad University aims to foster an internal environment in which students and staff can work together to promote understanding of other cultures and traditions, human rights and a globally sustainable use of resources. The University must be able to stimulate the development of educational programs in English, with a basis in international research co-operation.

A, The initiatives for new partners often come from members of the schools or departments at Kristianstad University. They take an active part to choose partners suitable for students and staff, to further implement and strengthen the links between research, education and Work related learning studies (vfu). The International Board then takes a position whether an agreement should be written.

B, Our partners are sought to be geographically spread to meet specific interest both requested by ongoing projects and research but also to offer our students the possibility to choose rather freely, where to go as exchange student as an encouragement to take part of a period of mobility. There are some differences between for example a nursing student who often wants to do a practical placement in a developing country (non-EU) and a business student who often prefers to go to a fast developing country (non-EU) or to an already developed country (both EU and non-EU) for their studies.

C, The most important objectives of our mobility activities are to increase the mobility amongst students and staff by further developing a study period abroad during first and/or second cycle as well as to develop the possibilities of doing the Work related learning studies (vfu) abroad within all disciplines of education. Teachers and staff at the University keep an international perspective in educational planning, and make use of international experience through information and integration in courses offered. The mobility amongst teachers and staff is promoted in different ways by the University. The University believes that creating an education of very good quality also provides a good foundation for an alumni that is active and attractive and, long-term, trusting relationships network, and a co-production between academia, businesses, institutions and society, which are essential prerequisites for the further development.

The request to offer double degrees has increased amongst some of our partners and for now this is where we concentrate our efforts.

In order both to strengthen and deepen the quality of education, research, co-operation and support and in the context of an increasingly global employment market, international experience gives a greater competitive advantage, and also contributes to personal development.

Kristianstad University works for an increased international mobility between different educational systems and labor markets, by supporting and facilitating international mobility, as well as other forms of international co-operation; at the same time, it also prepares students and employees for such mobility and co-operation.

This is made through different types of ongoing projects, both related to specific programmes but of course also through research and other international organizations that the University and its staff cooperates closely with.

Apart from exchange studies and practical placement the "traditional" way, we can through the organization Sida (which is a government organization under the Swedish Foreign Ministry where the mission is to allocate aid and other funding in developing countries) also offer both staff and students to apply for funding or scholarships to start up new exchanges in developing countries (non-EU) with specified projects that are beneficial for both partners as well as for our students to apply for the possibility to do their research for their final projects at first as well as and second cycle.

Kristianstad University also offers a scholarship for students choosing a non-EU exchange programme that is not covered by the scholarships mentioned above through Sida (non-EU).

We believe that the participation in the programme strengthens and visualizes our efforts and our attractiveness within one and each of the 5 priorities mentioned below:

1, Kristianstad University focuses on training and education and has established an excellent reputation for a range of programmes. We expect to further improve student performance and to provide the students with the necessary conditions to complete their studies within the given time frame. To increase the use and availability of support and overall aid resources is an additional effort to also increase the number of higher graduates.

2, To improve the quality and relevance of our education, the University is constantly updating and evaluating the educations offered and seeing to that they are sustainable to meet the demands of future students as well as demands from the surrounding society.

Students at Kristianstad University acquire not only the knowledge and skills that are most in demand on the labor market but also those that fulfil the needs and requirements of a modern scientific community. Our students must be equipped for a professional career in which they apply and renew their knowledge and skills; they must be prepared for change and possess good entrepreneurial skills.

3, By the different mobility programmes offered when participating in the programme, our students' attractiveness on the labor market can grow even more. In all training programs offered, theory is combined with practice through Work related learning studies (vfu) and through projects in companies, schools and other organizations and achieves tools to market themselves.

4, Kristianstad University owns together with the municipality of Kristianstad the Krinova Science Park where collaboration between companies, organizations, higher education and society promotes innovation and development as a way of for example linking business and university expertise.

The profile training or as we call it, the Kristianstad model for work-placement-based learning (vfu), where the primary component is that all training contains a profile training module, where the practical part consciously and clearly integrates research, education and working way.

It is also of great importance to increase the proportion of research and development projects carried out together with partners as well as to further develop support and incentive structure for teachers and students to actively participate in collaborative projects and to further encourage both students and teachers interest in the participation research-based innovation. The activities will include both public sector, organizations like the private sector and our participation in the Programme in all subject areas.

5, The quality work at Kristianstad University has a high priority and is an integral part of planning, implementation and monitoring of all our activities where a specific quality assurance system is used to help structure and facilitate this work.



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