

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) 2007 – 2013.**

### **I**

#### **a)**

##### **Brief description of the institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities.**

It is the declared intent of the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) to be an internationally oriented university in both teaching and research. The Erasmus Policy Statement of the University of Southern Denmark for the period of 2007 - 2013 is therefore a natural development of the institution's plans for strategic development. The University will continuously strive to be innovative and visionary on the international and the European scene while actively forming an alliance with local and regional authorities in the area of internationalisation

The University of Southern Denmark has for several years been highly engaged in European educational cooperation and it is a very high priority to further pursue and strengthen this development. The various activities of the Erasmus Programme and in a wider perspective of the Bologna Process are important motivators for the University's strategy in this area. Special priority will be given to the continuation and strengthening of the European cooperation within student and teaching staff mobility, multilateral projects such as Intensive Programmes, Thematic Networks, European Master Programmes and dual degree programmes.

It is evident from the development plan that the University aims at substantial quantity and continued balance in the international mobility activities. To achieve this goal the international curriculum is continuously developed and the University now offers a substantial number of full bachelor and master programmes taught in English as well as a large variety of tailored programmes for exchange students. It is of high priority to provide an international dimension for all students and employees, and the University has within its five faculties signed more than 350 Erasmus Bilateral Agreements for the exchange of students and/or teaching staff and is able to offer the possibility of a study abroad stay at a European educational institution to all interested students.

#### **b)**

##### **What specific actions are planned to give visibility to Erasmus activities and what kind of publicity will be given to the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS?**

Visibility to Erasmus activities is achieved in numerous ways: a yearly event called 'International Day'. Frequent notices are brought in the daily university news-letter about new agreements, information meetings, application deadlines etc. Articles are regularly published in the university press, student magazines, on the web-site, and in local and regional news papers. News concerning the EUC will be brought on the university web-site and in the university newspaper. The Erasmus Policy Statement has been approved by the Rector and the University's International Committee and will also be published on the web-site. The aims and priorities of the EPS will be communicated to the International Committees at all faculties and subsequently implemented.

##### **Non-discrimination objectives:**

At the University of Southern Denmark there is equality for all regardless of gender, race, religion or social status. We have excellent facilities to help and integrate both students and staff with special needs.

## II

### **Quality of academic mobility activities**

An important aim of the University of Southern Denmark is an on-going quality development and quality assurance in all aspects of the educational area - including the European and international educational co-operation activities as declared in the University's overall, institutional policy for quality assurance. The University of Southern Denmark uses ECTS in all faculties thus creating transparency in the multitude of syllabuses and flexibility concerning the transfer and recognition of credits. In keeping with the Bologna Process the University issues Diploma Supplements to all students and we also hold a Diploma Supplement Label.

Further essential criteria for quality assurance in the European educational co-operation and in specific in the academic mobility activities are: Regular evaluation of the content and aim of the curricula and of the pedagogical and academic level. Regular evaluation of the Erasmus Bilateral Agreements. The use of an evaluation system for both student and staff exchanges. An effective counselling system for both Danish and foreign students. Accommodation guarantee for foreign students and researchers. An efficient buddy system (through the Erasmus Student Network) for foreign students and an efficient welcoming programme and introduction course. A very active Erasmus Student Network providing many social activities each term. (The University currently holds the national chairmanship of ESN). Easy web-access to updated information on curricula. International Office staff on all campuses – providing help and counselling to both out-going and in-coming students. Regular information meetings about Erasmus for out-going students. Regular e-mail contact with our students during their stays abroad.

## III

### **Quality of student placement activities**

The University of Southern Denmark highly supports student placements abroad. Many of our programmes have a specific semester where students are encouraged to go abroad for either studies or a work placement. In both cases the student will apply for preliminary approval of the work- or study programme before going abroad and will receive credit transfer after successful completion of the stay which will be monitored and evaluated.

The Faculty of Engineering, in particular, has a long tradition of sending students abroad for internships, and has for some years coordinated the Leonardo da Vinci mobility projects for the Danish Engineering Colleges. An internship is obligatory for the majority of our Engineering students and therefore the faculty has drawn up a thoroughly structured internship concept which lays down the specific arrangements that must be made and how they must be implemented. Initially, the student, the internship venue and the supervisor cooperate to draw up an activity plan for the internship's purpose, goals, content, scope and level. During the internship the student is monitored and guided by the internship coordinator via e-mail and/or telephone correspondence and any problems will be taken care of straight away. The internship coordinator also e-mails an evaluation form to the internship venue with a view to determining whether the student has complied with the agreements concluded and whether the student's learning process is progressing in relation to the tasks performed. At the conclusion of the internship period, the student writes a report in accordance with the internship concept.

In the semester following the internship a follow-up seminar is held in order to ensure coherence between the experiential education received during the internship and the theoretical education received in the classroom. The above mentioned measures help ensure the highest quality of the internships.