

Erasmus Policy Statement

Dokuz Eylül University (DEU) acknowledges the importance of education, research (including knowledge transfer) and innovation in the face of increasing global competition. The mission of DEU is to contribute to economic, cultural and social well-being of society through fostering quality, innovation and internationalisation of education and research by enhanced transnational cooperation between education and research institutions, businesses and other stakeholders.

The Strategic Plan of DEU (2011-2015) adopts objectives dedicated to quality, innovation and internationalisation aspects: to increase the volume and quality of researches and projects; to improve continuously the curricula of degree programmes by taking the requirements of globalisation and modernisation into consideration; to create learning environment favouring academic, social and cultural improvements of students; to develop and sustain an effective lifelong learning system; to improve the prestige and image of DEU at both national and international levels. DEU aims to achieve its objectives by participating three key actions determined by the EU. DEU supports student and staff mobility and encourages joint degree programmes. DEU establishes international strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances and participates into networks and take policy support measures.

DEU considers internationalisation not an end in itself but a driver for improvement and aims to infuse internationalisation into institutional culture. Internationalisation strategy of DEU involves attracting researchers to DEU and preventing brain drain; increasing transnational mobility of both outgoing and incoming students through EU and non-EU collaboration agreements; internationalisation of the curriculum through adaptations in line with the Bologna Process; diversifying teaching and research staff through EU and non-EU collaboration agreements; strengthening research and knowledge production through strategic partnerships at both national and international level; establishing stronger research groups by participating in international scientific networks and being part of the global academic community within which to benchmark and share good practices.

a) While choosing partners, DEU seeks to ensure active, long-term and sustainable networks & partnerships which are in balance between academic interests and other factors such as geographical distribution or subject area and which produce results for mutual benefit. DEU

chooses its partners according to the compatibility of curriculum, courses, credit system; collaboration opportunities for students and staff and demand from students, academic and administrative staff; linguistic criteria for nominated students; prospective partner institution's reputation and added values which would be brought to DEU academic units.

b) DEU benefits largely from its geographical position as being at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, Africa and Middle East and has a geographically dispersed internationalisation strategy (covering both EU and non-EU countries). Erasmus Programme which facilitates links with higher education institutions in Europe, is a crucial aspect of international activity of DEU with over 300 bilateral agreements in 23 countries. Besides, Mevlana Exchange Programme and Turkish Scholarship Programme expand the geographical coverage of DEU's internationalisation to a great extent. Mevlana Exchange Programme aims to enhance exchange of students and academic staff between the Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions all around the world. DEU is expected to sign 49 bilateral agreements from 24 countries within this framework. DEU also accepts more than 200 full time foreign students within the framework of Turkish Scholarships Programme.

DEU gives priority to academic networking as part of its internationalisation strategy. DEU is a member of various academic networks. Study in Izmir is a platform which unites 9 universities established in Izmir to collaborate towards the aim of making Izmir an attractive hub for international students and researchers. Examples of other networks DEU takes part are European University Association (EUA); Consortium of Institutes of Higher Education in Health and Rehabilitation in Europe (COHERE); International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU); European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAAEE); International Engineering Alliance; NICE Network.

c) The most important target groups of DEU's mobility activities are researchers living abroad, incoming/outgoing students (short cycle, 1st cycle, 2nd cycle and 3rd cycle), teaching and research staff. DEU aims to become an attraction point for international researchers and reverse the flow of brain drain and to enhance its international profile by developing joint degree and dual degree programmes. In this regard, DEU has 6 undergraduate joint degree programmes and 1 Joint Phd programme.