

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

South-West University aims to achieve excellence in teaching and research and to provide wide educational and research experience. In order to continue the internationalization of its programs, the University intends to support the extension of Erasmus exchanges to new geographical areas. SWU will continue to cooperate with long-term partners and to foster links with leading institutions in Europe and beyond. Along with that the university will focus on strategic development of bilateral agreements with new partner institutions which have not been SWU Erasmus partners so far. The University is committed to increasing student and staff mobility. The University will guarantee the highest quality in the organisation of student mobility and will ensure equal academic treatment and services to home and Erasmus students. All students selected to take part in exchange programs will be chosen on the basis of their potential to benefit from the experience. All students are selected to take part in exchange programs without regard of sex, race, religion, origin or social background. The University is also committed to making arrangements to enable students with disabilities to participate as fully as possible in student life.

The opportunity to take part in teacher exchanges is important for the personal development of the South-West University staff. The University also welcomes visiting academic staff and the contribution they make to its teaching programs and curriculum development.

As stated in the SWU Development strategy, one of the objectives is international recognition and visibility of the teaching and research product. In line with this objective, the University intends to focus its Erasmus activities on staff and student mobility (in first, second and third cycle). SWU programs will be strengthened by forging better links with partner universities. This will bring benefit to participating students and academic staff and will encourage changes in course structures and teaching methods.

Another SWU strategic objective is participation in international thematic networks and consortia. The University is fully engaged with the Bologna process and is committed to the development of integrated programs of study, training and research with partner institutions across Europe. Improving quality of postgraduate and doctoral training through development of international joint programs is a priority for the University.

South-West University focuses on international cooperation contributing to the development of research, education and a knowledge-based economy. The University will continue the process of internationalization of cooperation in the area of research and education. SWU will take major initiatives to achieve growth of quality and quantity of projects participation.

The University considers this as a step towards improving the level of competitiveness of students and staff and therefore will promote and encourage wider participation in international projects. By that participants will be given an opportunity to get to know new methods, strategies and solutions and to share experience and good practices. The University will promote and support participation in international cooperation projects and will assist participants in the projects implementation.

South-West University aims to increase the number of the higher education attaining students. Giving students the opportunity to take part in the program will make SWU and the higher education as a whole look more attractive to young people and therefore they will be more interested in graduating and achieving leadership positions. This is one key to increasing higher education attainment and to provide graduates and researchers Europe needs. South-West University is a modern higher education institution focused on international cooperation contributing to the development of research, education and a knowledge-based economy. The University aims to provide students knowledge and practical skills that will allow them to be competitive on European labor market and to succeed in high-skill positions. An effective way to achieve this is to encourage students to take part in different programs and projects. The

University will encourage building learning mobility into curricula and ensure recognition of credits gained abroad. In the framework of the Program, SWU strives to improve the curriculum development further, in terms of structures, systems and content, in cooperation with its EU and non-EU partners. Developing innovative and flexible learning environments is a particular area of interest for project collaboration, with the aim of enabling different groups of learners to proceed in their studies in adaptable manner. Referring SWU's main goals stated in the Development strategy, the university-industry partnership is set down to be a strategic priority aiming at accelerating innovation and helping deliver solutions to answer social challenges and drive economic growth. Creation of high-profile multidisciplinary institutes will help break down traditional academic silos by creating incentives for new areas of research, seeding new courses of study and multidisciplinary degree programs, while also driving innovation. Through developing new curricula, sharing the research results with business and the use of the skills of our mobile participants, SWU expects a deep, long-term, strategic partnerships between industry and university for sustained success in innovation. That would force the Government to turn its policy towards facilitating this natural tendency. The SWU surely hope that partners from outside the university: enterprises, professional organizations, chambers of commerce, social partners or local/regional bodies, will support us in our intention for making the knowledge triangle work.