



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (Overall Strategy)

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain

a) how you choose your partners,

b) in which geographical area(s) and

c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles).

If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Founded in 1973, the University of Minho (UMinho) is nowadays one of the most important and prestigious HEI in Portugal. Located in the Minho region, in the North of the country, UMinho is renowned for the quality of its faculty, its level of excellence in research, the wide range of courses it offers, the valorization of knowledge it promotes, the remarkable degree of interaction it has with other institutions, national and foreign, and with the society in general, and the public recognition given to its Alumni.

Internationalisation is a priority for UMinho, and, as such, it is a core transversal element of [UMinho Mission & Strategic Plan 2020](#). Having recognised that internationalisation is a key element to obtain and maintain a high quality level of its projects concerning education, research and interaction with society and to promote the Institution in a growing competitive academic world, UMinho has been making a lot of effort to consolidate its international dimension and have a meaningful volume of international work in many categories which reinforce each other and have institutional coherence. EU programmes and initiatives are a fundamental resource for attaining these objectives and to enable UMinho to be better prepared for facing the challenges of the EHEA.

A culture of Internationalization must be embedded in all academic environments. UMinho intends to continue adopting a global institutional approach in order to consolidate and monitor its internationalisation strategy, engaging the whole academic community and the different organizational and management levels. The EPS will be largely disseminated and monitored regularly. Tracking measures will be focused on progress and process and not only in results and outcomes. The specificity of each School/Institute will be taken into account to allow improvement and correction of eventual asymmetries within.

UMinho has a worldwide range of bilateral and multilateral agreements aimed at creating the appropriate framework for student and staff mobility and research collaboration. The University actively participates in a large number of international networks and *fora*. A strong involvement in university and research networks and consortia is promoted on a regular basis. The establishment and further development of these strategic alliances is a pre-condition for the fulfillment of the internationalization and modernization goals of the Institution. Priority is given to those links that have a satisfactory level of activity and match UMinho's needs and/or strengths.

In terms of geographical priorities, UMinho has privileged Europe, Portuguese speaking countries, Latin and North America, and a few Asian countries. However, its policy is quite comprehensive, not excluding any specific region/country as long as there is relevance and purpose in the proposed partnership.

UMinho will continue to concentrate its efforts to reinforce and raise the profile of its mobility activities, where figures do not matter without being associated to meaningful, reliable, accredited and valid international mobility periods. Quality is the backbone of our action plan for internationalization. All our main tasks, stakeholders and levels must be targeted. Articulated actions&dynamics are called for to boost the envisaged participation and steady increase.

Student Credit-mobility is considered to be transversal to all cycles of studies and accommodate study and research periods as well as placements across different regions of the globe. PG mobility is promoted; at PhD some objectives are currently being pursued: increasing formalization of co-tutelles, proper integration of PhD



programmes in international networks, and supervisors' explicit academic responsibility and direct involvement. UMinho has clear ambitions to increase its visibility and attractiveness in the international arena mainly through: the reinforcement of its presence in international networks in research and education; the continuity of the strong institutional commitment with open access policies; the adoption of explicit strategies for the recruitment of international talent; more English-taught programmes offered. Joint ventures with the City Halls and other stakeholders to promote the cities of Braga and Guimarães will be especially considered. ECTS & DS Labels should be maintained.

The promotion of Joint International PG Programmes offered in EN through Excellence partnerships is a priority and further institutional guidelines and directives must be formalised. UMinho has been challenged by the 2 EMMCs it coordinates and the hands-on successful experience acquired will be optimized.

Holistic measures to consolidate IaH awareness and practices will be implemented with the objective of building a more internationalized campus of crucial importance for the attainment of all stated objectives and wider impact.

UMinho intends to use the opportunities the new programme brings as a quantum leap for systemic change & for enhancement of its international dimension.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

The pro-active and full participation in international cooperation projects in the scope of the new programme is an explicit part of UMinho's internationalization and modernization strategy. The projects to be implemented will be in line with the Institutional Strategic Plan UMinho 2020 and will have a complementary nature so as to guarantee coherence, sustainability and greater impact. The synergies with the new Programme architecture need to be promoted and optimized and the articulation between the different forms of cooperation enhanced.

To create the appropriate environment to boost ideas that lead to concrete actions, special consideration will be given to: 1. The promotion of campaigns about the programme and its financing instruments; 2. The dissemination of projects outcomes and good practices; 2. The building of initiatives based on the previously acquired expertise and existent achievements; 3. Foster the strengthening of strategic partnerships and nurture meaningful relations with key stakeholders; 4. Grant prestige to promoters of international education projects; 5. Professionalised support services and explicit institutional directives; 6. Incentives aimed at reinforcing the complementarity between Research and Education; 7. Actions demonstrating the institutional commitment with the strengthening of UMinho's international dimension.

Within its broad and inclusive LLL policy, UMinho will continue promoting academic structured cooperation with national and international institutions from different educational sectors: from initial to vocational training. The current and future knowledge alliances with the industrial/business sector keep playing their crucial role in stimulating learning opportunities, generating new employment possibilities, and in adding innovation into the curriculum. Development and capacity building projects that constitute privileged platforms of cooperation and opportunities to share good practice will be kept high in the agenda.



Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

By active participation in the Programme, UMinho also intends:

1. To participate in the effort to increase the number of researchers trained in entrepreneurial contexts at the level of 3rd cycle, coming/going both from/to EU and non-EU countries, and to facilitate their employability;
2. To stimulate, through the cooperation with business and other sectors of the economy, the linking among education, research and innovation;
3. To improve the participation of the academic staff in internationalization initiatives, through measures aiming at their institutional recognition;
4. To enhance the quality in teaching through the exchange of guidelines and practices with other European universities after academic staff mobility;
5. To invest and promote joint international postgraduate programmes and co-tutelles with other universities;
6. To analyse possible changes in UMinho's educational offer in order to establish more precise learning mobility windows to facilitate the moving between programmes. Incorporate the outcomes of the international activities and bilateral exchanges in order to promote curricular innovation and relevance.
7. To stimulate soft skills, such as entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills, profiting from the experiences abroad both by academic staff and students;
8. To support less favoured groups to access international mobility opportunities;
9. To increase the potential employability of its graduates through the added value of learning mobility;
10. To renew the ECTS & DS Labels and to keep up with the standards and guarantee efficient and full recognition of studies abroad. As a ECTS & DS Labels holder since 2004, UMinho has already proven its proficiency in the use of these tools for facilitating mobility and improving access;
11. To extend the use of the DS to 3rd cycle courses and raise students' and external stakeholders' awareness about its added value;
12. To continue adopting a systematic approach towards ECTS as a transfer and accumulation system as well as a means to recognise experiential learning & to continue border dissemination of good practices;
13. To embed IaH practices and concepts, raising the academic community awareness to the importance of building an internationalized campus and developing international and intercultural competence;
14. To increase the international visibility and attractiveness of the University through increased international recognition of its degrees and research, better position in prestigious rankings, consolidated image of a high quality international university, better promotion and branding, thus contributing to the consolidation of the EHEA;
15. To promote the enhancement of current initiatives oriented towards the participation in the design and implementation of regional development plans, be it in the Iberian northwest context or in the European southwest context;
16. To enhance the language policy of the University, widening the chances of the students to be offered an effective multilinguistic and multicultural environment.