

Erasmus Policy Statement

The Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PL Warszaw84)

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)

The Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPC PAS) is a leading research institution in Poland. The goals of the Institute are the following: to conduct research on current issues in the field of physical chemistry which are important from the point of view of the development of chemical sciences and demands of the national economy; and to maintain a top level of education. International cooperation, which includes mobility of students allowing for dynamic exchange of ideas and knowledge, is essential to fulfil these objectives.

Development of international cooperation is seen by the IPC board as one of the highest priorities. We are aware that this is the key factor leading to raising the standards in terms of both teaching and learning. We wish to provide our students, academic staff and incoming guests with a new opportunity of exchanging knowledge by participating in the Erasmus + programme.

Participation in Erasmus+ Programme will enhance the quality of education on PhD level in the Institute by providing the possibility of bilateral student exchange with leading European academic institutions, as well as by enabling the exchange of lecturers. We will also greatly welcome Bachelor and Master's students to realize their training programmes at our Institute.

We will choose our partners based on a prior knowledge and experience; and also analyse the sustainability of the relationship and level of benefit. We wish to strengthen our current relationship with many European universities and also broaden the relationship by including new partners e.g. from Norway, Iceland, Finland, Serbia, Albania, etc.

We will also seek for extending our international collaboration with non-European countries, such as the U.S, Canada, Cuba, Japan, India, South Africa, Brazil, etc.

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. If not applicable, please explain (max. 2000 characters)

We have qualified staff on both central level (at the main administration unit of the Polish Academy of Science) and local level (our Institute) to address all issues related to all actions of Erasmus+ Programme. At the central level, there are more than 10 persons working at the International Relation Offices, and at the local level additional persons have been designated (of which one will become a coordinator) for

administrative coordination of the Erasmus+ Programme and supervision of the mobility. The coordinator will be also responsible for promotion and visibility of the Programme.

The Institute has adopted many procedures regulating the major aspects of mobility, such as: implementation of the ECTS, setting down the specific criteria for qualifying students for going abroad (such as level of foreign language competence and an interview), full recognition of periods of study abroad, which is achieved with high attention given to the requirement of a well-prepared Learning Agreement. Realization of the plan of studies assures recognition of the programme in all cases.

The mobility of academic staff is also supported with the use of special measures. The Institute recognizes higher academic status of teachers participating in international cooperation projects, and provides assistance in organizational matters.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda *and explain which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue.(max. 3000 characters)

Learning mobility helps individuals increase their professional, social and intellectual skills and employability. In addition, individuals participating in the mobility programmes via Erasmus+ Programme will be perceived as more valuable in the job market. Via the Erasmus+ Programme we wish to attract more talented students, academics and researchers from both inside and outside the EU and developing new forms of cross-border cooperation to improve quality of teaching and learning. The growing internationalisation of higher education at our Institute will certainly have a strong impact on quality education and research.

The ministers of the European Higher Education Area have agreed to double the proportion of students completing a study or training period abroad to 20% by 2020. By either sending our students abroad or hosting foreign students, the Institute intends to take part in the process of increasing the number of students performing a training period abroad.

Thanks to the participation in the Erasmus+ Programme, the employees responsible for administrative matters will be given a change to engage in different courses and other forms of international exchange, and therefore develop their professional skills. The expertise gained in such way will be certainly helpful in facilitating more efficient governance of the Institute.

In addition, participating in the Erasmus+ Programme will have an impact on the development of our educational model, which is governed by principles that suit well the Modernisation Agenda:

1. Orientation to learning and integral development of the students.
2. Commitment to to multilingualism.
3. Commitment to internationalization and mobility.
4. Promoting social responsibility.

5. Promoting the employability and entrepreneurship, via traineeships in a company .