

D

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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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)

Original language [EN]

The Atlântica University (UATLA) is an institution oriented to the creation, transmission and dissemination of culture, knowledge, science and technology through the articulation of study, teaching, scientific and technological research, experimental development and the provision of services to the Community. It aims to offer high level qualification to the population, to stimulate the production and dissemination of knowledge, and to provide sound scientific training for the acquisition and development of skills in the UATLA's areas of training.

It aims to train students to become professionals who have a humanistic and scientific-technical conception, scientific-technical and engage in society, in innovating areas of knowledge whose importance will be felt in the modernization and development of the country. As an institution guided by the need to always maintain the highest level of scientific and pedagogical quality while, at the same time, seeking to extend and accentuate the most positive trends of present times and to create original ways of achieving this objective, the UATLA wants to be a valuable tool for progress in Portugal. UATLA aims at be clearly positioned in the European context, which means to ensure a quality education similar to the practices used in the best European universities. It is also a concern to train professionals able to pursue their studies and / or work within the framework of the European Union. Therefore, UATLA's strategy aims to build a set of study cycles integrated in its educational and scientific diversity and to develop activities that will ensure its scientific and professional recognition, in Portugal and abroad.

The internationalization strategy of UATLA intends to foster a contribution in this direction through the promotion of international alliances in learning and research, aiming at giving students key qualifications which are essential in our globalized society: intercultural skills, and knowledge of European and international connections. This strategy is implemented both by the Erasmus Programme and by a set of agreements with universities of Portuguese speaking countries.

a) In the framework of the educational and scientific project of UATLA, the mobility activities are linked with research and teaching collaborations. The selection of university partners is guided by the aim to create synergies with the scientific and academic strategy of the UATLA and to answer to the needs of UATLA students and staff. Decisions on specific mobility agreements result from a close collaboration between university management bodies and study cycle coordinators. This decision making process increasingly values the quality aspect of the mobility. Thus, the choosing criteria are as follows: institutions with the best and most innovative academic knowledge and research; associations with similar research and teaching profiles, thus giving the study cycles the opportunity to utilize their own networks and ensure the quality of their partners.

b) Geographical and linguistic coverage is taken into account when selecting partner institutions. At European level, UATLA has not defined any geographical priorities for partnerships. However, emphasis on past collaboration has been on South European countries (mainly Spain). Considering that a strong European emphasis will prevail, UATLA aims at expand the geographic coverage of its mobility activities all over Europe, encouraging students to participate in preparatory language courses. Some of the new partnerships result from past European Commission funded research projects (e.g. international cooperation projects with India, Costa Rica, Brazil, North Africa countries). Mobility activities focus also on universities from Portuguese speaking countries, with witch agreements have been established, providing for a considerable number of incoming students. New agreements with Brazilian and Angolan universities are being discussed to be implemented in a short time period.

c) UATLA aims to increase the mobility of students as well as the mobility of teachers in all cycles, with special emphases on first and second cycles. The number of partnerships will increase both with EU and non-EU countries. Another objective is to create a strategic partnership with academic institutions from EU and non-EU countries in order to ensure a long term scientific and teaching cooperation in innovative areas.

In the UATLA, the study cycles in the area of Health have a strong component of training. Therefore, one of the priorities will be to encourage training experiences abroad.

The part-time student profile, which was an important limitation for outgoing students in the past, will be specially addressed in the future implementation of the Programme, by promoting short-duration intensive programmes. Additionally, as part of the comprehensive strategy of UATLA, third cycle students will be encouraged to do a mobility during their studies.

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)

Original language [EN]

As a small university (the UATLA has approximately 1000 students and 150 full-time equivalent teaching staff members), the institution's financial and staff resources are limited. Consequently, the internationalization strategy focuses on a limited number of strategic targets and alliances with international partners, built on previous research consortia, and targeting innovative teaching and research approaches.

The strategic targets mainly focus on mobility activities for students and teaching staff. It is the aim of the UATLA to establish a strategic cooperation with a limited number of partners. These strategic cooperation agreements have the aim of establishing a structured, intensive and long-term collaboration, especially regarding curriculum development, building of additional study cycles offered to the UATLA students, training, capacity building and development of research projects. Regarding further international projects in the area of teaching and research, the UATLA is building a specific network to create a joint degree, with European and international partner institutions. In this future programme, students will be given the possibility to obtain joint degrees when completing a mobility period at the partner institution. This joint programme is regarded as a mean to strengthen and intensify existing collaboration.

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)

Original language [EN]

The UATLA provides education programmes in the fields of Health, Management, Environment, and Communication and Information Technologies. In line with its strategic plan, the UATLA prepares internationally competent students able to easily integrate the labour market.

UATLA plans to contribute to the European Union's modernization and internationalization agenda by continuing to improve teaching and research quality and by expanding the links between education, research and business in order to increase the number of higher education graduates, meeting the needs of the contemporary society.

The implementation of the Programme at the UATLA will have the following impacts:

- a) Providing an excellent range of activities for learning mobility for students, and new opportunities to internationalise the UATLA's students and teaching staff. UATLA will adopt the new activities of the Programme which concern third countries, raising the potential for growth in mobility.
- b) Improving the quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training, which will provide the knowledge and core transferable competences needed to succeed in high-skill occupations.
- c) Providing more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, that will encourage cross-border cooperation and improve higher education performance.
- d) Strengthening the links between education, research and business, and increasing the opportunities to experience different training contexts at organizations abroad, which will also benefit the local/regional community.
- e) Creating an opportunity to improve effective governance, in order to support excellence, guaranteed by the procedures needed to implement and manage the Programme at the UATLA.

The UATLA is a small private university with limited resources and as such the University needs to focus on and prioritize mobility activities in cooperation with strong, long-term partners. In relation to the priorities of the Modernization Agenda, the UATLA has the following main objectives:

-To continue to offer mobility activities with high quality, ensuring that students and teaching staff gain additional skills, to encourage international cooperation, and to expand and strengthen strategic partnerships. This will contribute to the education of students and researchers providing them with the necessary skills for integration in the European labour market.

-The recent accreditation process of all the study cycles offered by UATLA additionally ensures that the quality and relevance of the degrees are constantly being improved and that the curricula meet the needs of the labour market.

-The UATLA will improve close cooperative partnerships with regional private and public organizations.

This will contribute to the improvement of the quality and relevance of teaching and research, informal learning, promote excellence, innovation and regional development.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)

E

Endorsement of the application

I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,

certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;

agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;

agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission

Place: Barcarena

Name: Eugénio Faca

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 14/05/2013

I have read and accept the Privacy statement

Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)

Original stamp or seal of the Institution

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Universidade
Atlântica
EIA-Ensino, Investigação
e Administração, S.A.
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