

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

In the new strategy of Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) till the year 2020, the University's vision is to become a leading University with knowledge and technology development and transfer - based activities in Europe. One of the main goals of the KTU development strategy is internationalization of academic life through the facilitation and enlargement of cooperation with international academic, scientific and economic structures. University's top priorities for internationalization are as follows:

- Internationalization of learning and teaching.
- Generally, attracting foreign students for studies at all levels.
- Developing strategic partnerships with other institutions regarding teaching and learning.
- Developing strategic research partnerships with other institutions.
- Providing our students with more opportunities to have learning experience abroad.

KTU seeks in 2020 to have an international students population (degree – and credit – seeking students at Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate levels) above 10% of total students enrolled; teaching and research staff from abroad above 5% of total teaching and research staff; the number of double and joint degrees – above 50% of all degree programmes in English.

The main ERASMUS activity – student mobility at KTU started in 1999. Due to the strong institutional support the number of incoming and outgoing students was permanently increasing and reached the ratio 1:1.3 in 2012 (in comparison to 1:10 in 2002). Furthermore, we expect an increase in students mobility and to achieve the ratio of incoming and outgoing students 1:1 in the near future.

Exchange of teaching staff under Erasmus is also considered one of the main pre-requisites for the successful development and implementation of the European dimension in KTU curricula as well as an important quality assurance factor. Although in the last few years the number of outgoing teachers has remained almost stable, an increase of outgoing and incoming teachers as well as staff training is among the uppermost goals for the University for the upcoming years.

To achieve results in internationalization until the year 2020, KTU is first of all developing partnerships with the European universities both from EU and non-EU countries, having strong research and high quality of studies, being an active member of such European and regional organizations and networks as the European University Association (EUA), the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI), the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER), the European Universities Continuing Education Network (EUCEN), the Baltic University Programme, the Baltic Sea Regional University Network (BSRUN), the Strategic Consortium of the Baltic Universities of Science and Technology and many specialized networks. The first joint Master degree programmes Environmental Management and Cleaner Production and Industrial Engineering and Management have been developed within such frameworks.

For a few years KTU has developing partnerships in the fields of research, students and staff exchange, modernization of curricula with the universities from Europe, Asia and North America.

Participation in the Programme ensures possibility to increase international experience in higher education. Decreasing cultural and educational stereotyping will provide wider possibilities to improve conditions for University's graduates and researchers to join workforce. Increasing globalisation must be taken in to account willing to increase higher education attainment in case to sustain European social model and beneficial international movement in industrial field.

The importance of improving the quality of higher education is one the most important goals of the University. Researcher training in our University will be better aligned with the needs of the knowledge-intensive labour market and in particular with the requirements of SMEs. Linking the Programme funding to the implementation of the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training will allow KTU to train more researchers better and faster. Using this Programme KTU will grow the competence and motivation of teachers and researchers. The Programme funding will be used for continuing professional development of academic staff it needs. The Programme funding will help our University to invest in continuous professional development for KTU academic and administrative staff.

Strengthening quality can be also achieved by expanding the mobility possibilities for students, teachers and administrative staff. Learning mobility helps individuals increase their professional, social and intercultural skills and employability. The ministers of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) have agreed to double the proportion of students completing a study or training period abroad to 20% by 2020. The EHEA has brought about far-reaching changes: the bachelor-master-doctorate structure and advances in quality assurance have facilitated individual mobility and strengthened institutions and systems. Participating in the Programme will help KTU to reach EHEA agreement. KTU has ECTS Diploma Supplement and it allows ensuring the efficient recognition of credits gained abroad.

The link between higher education, research and business will contribute new co-operations between KTU, research institution and business. It leads to transfer knowledge to the market and increase economic development in Kaunas. Talented students are integrated into innovative environment and encouraged to deepen and exchange their knowledge globally.

Willing to improve the quality of higher education and sustain growing research areas, KTU is seeking to gain the additional funding. Flexible governance and funding systems would enable institution to promote particular successful educational and research projects while avoiding administrative and financial restrictions which limits institutions' ability to define strategies and structures according the needs.