

ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2014-2020

The European Commission hereby awards this Charter to:

NORGES MILJØ-OG BIOVITENSKAPLIGE UNIVERSITET

The Institution undertakes to respect the following principles:

- + Respect in full the principles of non-discrimination set out in the Programme and ensure equal access and opportunities to mobile participants from all backgrounds.
- + Ensure full recognition for satisfactorily completed activities of study mobility and, where possible, traineeships in terms of credits awarded (ECTS or compatible system). Ensure the inclusion of satisfactorily completed study and / or traineeship mobility activities in the final record of student achievements (Diploma Supplement or equivalent).
- + Charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities.

The Institution further undertakes to:

- When Participating in Mobility Activities -

Before Mobility

- + Publish and regularly update the course catalogue on the website of the Institution well in advance of the mobility periods, so as to be transparent to all parties and allow mobile students to make well-informed choices about the courses they will follow.
- + Carry out mobility only within the framework of prior agreements between institutions. These agreements establish the respective roles and responsibilities of the different parties, as well as their commitment to shared quality criteria in the selection, preparation, reception and integration of mobile participants.
- + Ensure that outgoing mobile participants are well prepared for the mobility, including having attained the necessary level of linguistic proficiency.
- + Ensure that student and staff mobility for education or training purposes is based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff validated in advance between the home and host institutions or enterprises and the mobile participants.
- + Provide assistance related to obtaining visas, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- + Provide assistance related to obtaining insurance, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- + Provide guidance to incoming mobile participants in finding accommodation.

During Mobility

- + Ensure equal academic treatment and services for home students and staff and incoming mobile participants.
- + Integrate incoming mobile participants into the Institution's everyday life.
- + Have in place appropriate mentoring and support arrangements for mobile participants.
- + Provide appropriate linguistic support to incoming mobile participants.

After Mobility

- + Accept all activities indicated in the learning agreement as counting towards the degree, provided these have been satisfactorily completed by the mobile students.
- + Provide incoming mobile participants and their home institutions with transcripts containing a full, accurate and timely record of their achievements at the end of their mobility period.
- + Support the reintegration of mobile participants and give them the opportunity, upon return, to build on their experiences for the benefit of the Institution and their peers.
- + Ensure that staff are given recognition for their teaching and training activities undertaken during the mobility period, based on a mobility agreement.

- When Participating in European and International Cooperation Projects -

- + Ensure that cooperation leads to sustainable and balanced outcomes for all partners.
- + Provide relevant support to staff and students participating in these activities.
- + Exploit the results of the projects in a way that will maximise their impact on individuals and participating institutions and encourage peer learning with the wider academic community.

- For the Purposes of Visibility -

- + Display this Charter and the related Erasmus Policy Statement prominently on the Institution's website.
- + Promote consistently activities supported by the Programme, along with their results.

On behalf of the Institution, I recognise that implementation of the Charter will be monitored and that violation of any of the above principles and commitments may lead to its withdrawal by the European Commission.

-signed-


Mari Sundli Tveit
Legal representative

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Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

D. 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)

Original language [EN]

"The Norwegian University of Life Sciences(UMB) is already a hub of expertise within the life sciences, environmental sciences and in the arena of sustainable development." UMB selects its partners based on common research and teaching interests within these fields. In Europe, the university has special partnerships with agricultural and veterinary institutions in the Nordic region (NOVA), Baltic countries (BOVA) and on the European continent. UMB's EU strategy has thus focused on academic fields, rather than specific geographic areas. However, there is a national focus on Germany as it Norway's second largest trade partner, and the university has numerous exchange agreements in Germany, of which students are encouraged to take advantage of. Our non-EU strategy originates from the Department of International Environment and Development Studies(Noragric), where "staff and students are engaged in interdisciplinary studies on a wide range of issues concerned with poverty, livelihoods, gender, property rights, environmental management, conflict, peace building and post-conflict development in Sub-Saharan Africa, South- and Southeast Asia and South America." This has led to the establishment of agreements with institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Uganda. In addition, UMB has concentrated efforts for the development of partnerships in various geographic areas such as Eurasia, North America and more specifically Newly Industrialized Countries(NICs), namely Brazil, Russia, India and China,.

The vision statement from UMB's Strategic Plan for Internationalization states, "To attain and sustain high academic standards to be internationally competitive and recognized as an institution for advanced learning and research." UMB sees student and staff mobility as integral to its work on improving and securing the quality of academic services by raising the international competence and skills of administrative and scientific staff. Decades of broad international involvement have permeated UMB with an appreciation of cultural diversity and it places great value on raising multi-cultural awareness. Mobility is highly encouraged for all degree cycles, and each degree program designates one semester as a mobility window, except for the third cycle degrees, where mobility can take place at any time. Staff mobility is encouraged whenever applicable, especially when it relates to international research projects or collaborations.

Our university has limited experience with double/joint degrees having only three such programs since 2007. Based on the positive experiences with these programs, the development and implementation of double/joint degrees at every cycle has become a university focus, and we hope to increase the number of such programs in the coming years

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]

UMB expects to benefit from the three key actions in the new Erasmus for All program. Research cooperation is the foundation for implementing and developing partnerships which necessarily result in staff and student mobility. The UMB student shall "demonstrate knowledge that builds on secondary education of important topics, theories, issues, processes, tools and methods within the academic field and in an international perspective; communicate and collaborate in academic work in an international study- or work context." The international perspective can be achieved through incoming and outgoing mobility. UMB staff shall be active contributors to the internationalization of higher education through the staff exchange program and participation in international cooperation projects, such as the development of double/joint degrees. The EU commission has been at the forefront of policy development and reforms in higher education, and our university has both contributed and benefited from this. Continued participation will ensure UMB's ongoing modernization.

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]

UMB will merge with the Norwegian Veterinary School and form the new «Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)» in 2014, which will positively affect our modernization agenda.

1. Norway remains one of the few countries offering free public higher education, and all Norwegian citizens and permanent residents receive financial support from the State Education Loan Fund which makes higher education attainable for all segments of the population. Free public education attracts students from around the world, and with program support more international students will be able to study at UMB.
2. UMB, under Norwegian law and in follow-up to the European Bologna Declaration, has implemented a quality reform and has restructured the courses, credits and degrees to meet European standards adopting the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in 2011. The specification of learning outcomes provides the student/applicant, teacher and labor market an overview of the skills attained during the study period. Certain UMB departments work closely with the private sector in regards to relevant topics and current research for master thesis work, and through program participation, we expect to increase collaboration with the international labor market.
3. UMB students are encouraged to take part of their studies abroad through our numerous agreements. Full recognition is given for international mobility, if coursework is pre-approved. UMB also admits exchange students from partner institutions from all over the world. Our participation in the new Erasmus for All is crucial for the continued internationalization of our campus.
4. UMB is a leading international center of knowledge, focused on higher education and research within environmental and biosciences. Teaching at UMB is research-based at all levels offering field courses abroad as an introduction to international research often becoming the basis for the thesis. Innovation at UMB plays an important role in education and research. UMB offers a master degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation focusing on the commercialization of ideas, and students from all UMB fields can and do take courses from this program. In part through Erasmus for All, UMB expects to further develop new teaching methods and to foster entrepreneurial skills and attitudes.
5. Today, UMB receives funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Education, the Norwegian Research Council, various sources in the public and private sectors, and the EU. Continued funding is driven by the quality of education and research. UMB continually works towards attainment of the high level of European standards in higher education which positively influences university governance. Participation in the program is imperative to the further development of UMB policy, and for staying abreast of international developments in higher education.

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