

 ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Turkish-German University has engaged in international activities regarding partnership since

its establishment in 2008. The partner universities are mainly from Germany due to the fact

that the university’s main language of instruction is German. Nonetheless, Turkish-German

University has a clear aim to devote itself to promote internationalisation within the institution.

The internationalisation strategy that the university has adopted paves the way for a perpetual

increase in global competitiveness in higher education. In this regard, Erasmus+ Programme

and other exchange activities are highly supported by academic and administrative units of

the university because there is an awareness of that these activities play a significant role in

order to enhance an excellence in higher education in the international platform.

Turkish-German University favours the European modernisation in higher education and

ensures the implementation of the Bologna Process and its dictations without any

compromise on academic and administrative quality. This attitude has been embraced since

the university acquired the Erasmus Charter in 2014 for the Erasmus+ period of 2014-2020.

The commitment to European modernisation in higher education and common values of

European Union will be emphasised continuously within the institution.

As the Erasmus+ Programme is an active tool for introducing and developing student and

staff exchange, it has become a crucial part of the general institutional strategy of the

university. The mobility of students and staff has been clearly underlined in the institutional

strategy, and the higher administrative body of Turkish-German University supports not only

outbound mobility but also inbound mobility from different parts of the world. Academic units

are working hardly to augment the number of international activities and collaborations.

Moreover, the International Office acts as a mediator that eases the bureaucratic procedures

and strengthens dialogue between partners. In this regard, Turkish-German University

considers the interinstitutional agreements as the initial step to produce a more efficient and

effective partnership for research and academic collaboration among partners.

Turkish-German University carries out surveys for the students who participated in Erasmus+

mobility in order to get their feedback about their study experience abroad. According to these

surveys and evaluation, a very high percentage of participants advocates that participating in

the Erasmus+ mobility affects the student’s academic and professional profile in a positive

manner. Almost all of the students claim that they improved their language skills to a great

extent. In this sense, as the multilingualism is obviously accentuated in the insight of

European project and creation of a functional European Education Area, it can be understood

that the Erasmus+ Programme contributes to good and constructive impacts on linguistic

abilities of participant students. This circumstance is viewed as a successful indicator to be a

part of European modernisation strategy in higher education.

In general, it should be indicated that Turkish-German University champions the rule of

transparency and equal opportunity in all stages of Erasmus+ process because it is believed

that as many people as possible have to benefit from the opportunities that the Erasmus

Programme provides in many aspects.

Signing the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is a prominent index for contribution to

European modernisation and internationalisation of higher education. In this regard, Turkish-

German University is planning to continue the activities implemented with the first ECHE that

was issued in 2014. As it has been always advocated since 2014, it is still significant to

increase number of partners from distinct regional areas in Europe as well as outside Europe.

The activities executed under Key Action 1 – Learning Mobility of Individuals will be

intensively carried on in the upcoming years. There has been an upward trend in number of

applications to the student and staff mobility since TAU started to introduce Erasmus+

Programme. As number of registered students rises each year, the demand for taking part in

Erasmus+ mobility goes up in a similar way. In this regard, it can be claimed that the

exchange activities under Erasmus+ has become a vital component of the institution. For

instance, TAU got the budget for student mobility for traineeships for the first time in 2019.

This was highly welcomed by the students, and it is expected that there will be more

participants in traineeship activities for each academic year.

It is necessary to underline that the procedure implemented to select the participants is based

on the rules of transparency and equal opportunity. TAU highly respects these two principles

because they have a pivotal role for an effective implementation of Erasmus+ Programme. It

is necessary not to compromise on this sort of approach in order to keep the dynamics of

Erasmus+ process.

TAU has not engaged in the international credit mobility yet, but the discussion to apply for a

budget to introduce international credit mobility is still going on. It is expected that TAU will

apply for this project within three years. TAU keeps a collaborative dialogue with prospective

partner HEIs from different regional areas for this objective because international credit

mobility will also contribute to the internationalisation strategy of the university and will have a

positive impact on the general institutional strategy. In this regard, TAU’s institutional strategy

has set a priority which aims at improving academic and organisation quality and

strengthening cross-border cooperation through international student and staff mobility. Both

mobility within programme countries and mobility between programme and partner countries

contribute to the institutional strategy of the university.

Turkish-German University is committed to enhancing the quality of higher education by

engaging in cooperation activities. More engagement in the projects under Erasmus+ means

an academic platform which is more engaged in the European Higher Education Area and

formation of a student profile which is more employable in the market. According to the

feedbacks that the students provided, the traineeship activities performed within Erasmus+ have a constructive impact of professional skills of students because most of the students

claimed that taking part in Erasmus+ helped them transfer their knowledge, which they got

during their studies, from theory to practice. Moreover, these students assume that this

practice will assist them to find the appropriate job in the market within a short period of time.

TAU actively promotes the personal and professional improvements of Erasmus+ mobility to

students and staff. This can be observed in the developments of cross-cultural

communication and language skills of these target groups.

There are essential benefits to work with partner universities within the framework of

Erasmus+ Programme. This situation has helped the university expand its knowledge and

experience of other education systems and qualifications. As a result, this process cleared

the way for admission, recognition, academic collaboration and management of mobilities. In

this sense, Turkish-German University will attempt to achieve to offer distinct exchange

opportunities to the stakeholders of the institution, mainly to the students and staff. In addition

to this, the university’s higher administrative body believes that engaging in different

academic cooperation will provide a flourishing academic and research environment, and this

circumstance can also result in new study programmes to be implemented.

It is also noteworthy to mention that Turkish-German University is working closely with

business and industry in Turkey and Germany. Certain leading companies provide

scholarship and traineeship opportunities for students of the university. This helps to use the

intellectual capital in a good advantage and to create a highly skilled workforce for the market.

In this regard, Erasmus+ Programme is seen as a tool to contribute to this university and

business collaboration with the work placement mobility. In short, this transfer of theory into

practice will assist the university and the academic staff to produce an atmosphere for an

innovative research. For this purpose, Turkish-German University will continue the

collaboration with industry and business and attempt to increase opportunities for integration

of industrial experience into the study programmes offered.

The Erasmus+ Programme that the university engages is not limited to exchange of students

and staff. There were other projects introduced: a Jean Monnet Project (INSITER, Jean

Monnet Module on Turkey-EU Relations) and a project classified under strategic partnership

(Green Energy Skills for Youth). These two projects were successfully terminated with the

efforts of academic staff from Turkish-German University and the ones from other higher

education institutions in Europe. In this regard, putting this sort of projects into effect reflects

the university’s intention to broaden its horizons about research and internationalisation.

Therefore, activities other than the basic mobility flow within the framework of Erasmus+ will

also be supported in the upcoming years, and more staff will be encouraged to take part in

this sort of projects. Turkish-German University believes that more engagement in the

projects under Erasmus+ means an academic platform which is more engaged in the

European Higher Education Area and formation of a student profile which is more employable

in the market.

