

ERASMUS+ Policy Statement

Tilburg University's international (EU and non-EU) strategy

Tilburg University (Tilburg University) inspires its staff and students to contribute to the quality of our society of today and tomorrow. It does this by educating and developing young people into individuals capable of fulfilling responsible positions in society, by providing lifelong and post-experience education, and by conducting relevant research. Future society needs highly-educated employees who are active in an international context.

Tilburg University responds to this need with a strong international orientation by participating in international research programs, alliances with leading universities worldwide and mobility programs for staff and students. The current international strategy regarding education focuses on the promotion of international mobility and realizing an international campus at Tilburg University.

Promotion of international (outgoing) mobility

Tilburg University prepares students for the international labor market by providing extensive possibilities for mobility. Each degree program offers an opportunity for international exchange. Going abroad is extensively promoted through campaigns and information sessions. Information is also available online.

To address the diversity in demand for mobility, Tilburg University offers a wide range of possibilities: semester exchanges, summer courses, intensive programs, research-activities or joint programs. Partnerships with universities worldwide are set up to respond to students' preferences. About half of the outgoing mobility takes place in participating countries.

Joint programs

Tilburg University acknowledges the value of international joint programs. Joint programs are offered at bachelor, master and PhD-level. Some are supported by EU funding. Further development of joint programs with reputed foreign institutions from participating and other countries, is strongly promoted by Tilburg University. All new initiatives consider possibilities of EU funding to support development or implementation.

Most academic staff is involved in international research projects, often requiring mobility. PhD-students are encouraged to gain international experience during their studies. The mode of this experience depends on the research but often consists of attending international conferences or exchange to research partners. Services are provided by faculty mobility coordinators such as scholarship information and help with practical arrangements.

Partners

Tilburg University has set up partnerships with over 170 universities worldwide for collaboration in education and research including exchange of staff/students. The university constantly reviews its partnerships to provide high-quality exchange. In this monitoring process, the level and relevance of the education offering is considered, but also the location, services provided to students and support in integrating into student life at the host institution. Based on this process, Schools may determine specific target countries to increase the availability of mobility opportunities.

Strategic alliances (institutional partnerships) are set up with a select group of universities located in Europe, Latin America and Asia. Their partnerships aim to realize a more intensive, lasting cooperation in both joint research and joint education.

Specific target groups for mobility

Mobility opportunities are available for all students and staff. The majority of student mobility takes place at the third year of the bachelor program. This is also due to the mobility windows which are included in most curricula. Given the importance of international experience for their future careers, Tilburg University strongly promotes mobility in the third cycle.

Our aim is that 25% of all students have a study abroad experience. Mobility percentages are monitored yearly.

International campus

Incoming international students are considered of high importance for the establishment of an international classroom. Tilburg University wants the student population to be a mix of Dutch and international students from diverse countries. We aim to have 25% foreign students in the English-language Bachelor programs and 50% foreign students in the English-language Master programs. Targeted acquisition efforts are carried out through exchange agreements and marketing.

All services are adjusted to the needs of an international population. Because we are keen for foreign employees to feel at home and involved in the Tilburg University community, we have adapted our recruitment activities, terms and conditions of employment and staff amenities to the needs of the growing number of international employees who come to live in the Tilburg area.

Tilburg University is strongly internationally oriented and has formulated an international strategy focusing on international mobility and realizing an international campus. Tilburg University acknowledges the importance of participating in European and international projects which provide a framework for cooperation and set a standard for quality. Tilburg University will

continue to participate in these projects when the expected impact is supportive to realizing our institutional strategy.

Strategy for the organization and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the program

Institutional participation in EU projects is considered as an important vehicle to enhance our internationalization strategy. Projects provide a possibility to extend or intensify partnerships which facilitates mobility of staff and students. Organization and implementation of international cooperation projects is positioned at different levels within the university, depending on the character of the projects. Involvement in joint study programmes is coordinated at School level. A programme officer is appointed to administrate the presently EU-funded programmes. International programmes which cover several Schools, are managed by the International Office.

Impact of our participation in the ERASMUS+ Program on the modernization of our institution in terms of policy objectives

Increasing attainment levels

Future society needs highly-educated employees who are active internationally. Tilburg University responds to this need with a strong international orientation which results in international research programs, alliances with leading universities worldwide and mobility programs for staff/students.

Participation in the Program will further strengthen our strategic alliances within and outside Europe with institutions and industry. Research and education with a strong international focus is attractive for national and international students, PhD-candidates and researchers.

The importance of attracting a broader cross section of society including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups is stressed by the Program. Tilburg University has developed a number of arrangements for people with disabilities/special needs. Given the importance of fair/equitable opportunities for all participants, the present arrangements may be further improved to meet the needs of disadvantaged groups.

Improving quality and relevance

Our students and employees form an international community that is eager to look beyond its own boundaries. Our size and compact campus create an open atmosphere in which everyone can feel involved. Tilburg University values the transfer of knowledge to society and the

valorization of academic knowledge, as manifested in collaborative partnerships with businesses and social organizations.

We participate in international education/research programs, enter into alliances with leading universities in Europe and Asia, are involved in student/staff exchange programs and joint programs at bachelor, master or PhD-level.

Participating in EU projects will support existing strategic alliances to work into flexible consortia conducting joint research/education. The relevance and quality of education and research training will increase when curricula is jointly developed and delivered from different (geographical and/or institutional) perspectives.

Linking higher education, research and business

Tilburg University aims to use its research to increase understanding of social issues and is dedicated to the transfer of knowledge to society and the application of knowledge/expertise. Many Tilburg University researchers work with industry and social organizations. Participating in EU programs will further facilitate/strengthen this collaboration. Tilburg University also develops networks of aspiring student entrepreneurs and provides education for senior levels in industry and the non-profit sector at TiasNimbas Business School. Tilburg University expressly supports start-up companies. The Tilburg Social Innovation Lab (TiSIL) contributes to solving societal issues by means of creation, dissemination, and application of interdisciplinary knowledge.

Improving governance and funding

By entering international cooperation projects, Tilburg University expects to diversify its funding sources for research/education. Other funding might become available when working in international consortia. Such cooperation will continue to enlarge Tilburg University's educational offerings.