

## Erasmus Policy Statement

The University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (USB) supports international cooperation with all world-renowned universities. Our current bilateral cooperation includes most programme countries as well as other European countries. USB focuses on staying in active contact with current partners and wishes to support bilateral mobility funded by other grants and scholarships apart from the EU grants. Cross-border cooperation and cooperation with neighbouring countries is also of utmost importance.

Finding partners for academic and student mobility projects is mostly the responsibility of Heads of faculties. The main impulse often comes from an active and personal cooperation of a scientific, research and educational nature between two or more partners. In some cases, the students themselves find a university similar to USB and request a cooperation from the authorized person at their faculty/department. This concerns especially exchange mobility. The geographic area for USB cooperation is open worldwide, however, majority of cooperation has been developed in European countries under EU programmes. Currently, cooperation is carried out in most European countries, rather than in Asia, Africa, Australia, North and South America under other grant programmes.

There are two target groups for international cooperation at USB: outgoing students of all types of degree programmes, teachers and researchers, and incoming international students. USB supports the mobility of Czech students who want to go abroad for traineeships or study stays to enable them to experience ways of study and work which are different to the ones used at their home university. USB places high importance on enabling any student who is interested in international experience gained through study stay or traineeship to participate in them.

Another strategy of the University of South Bohemia is to create opportunities for the mobility of teachers and researchers carried out as international teaching and research stays. USB considers international activities of its employees as an integral part of their career. Academic staff are encouraged to participate in international mobility to enable them to gain new experience from partner universities and to explore other teaching methods and techniques. USB would like to increase the number of international students enrolled in the university degree programmes and in all short-term exchange programmes. For that reason is USB currently creating degree programmes accredited in English or other languages. International students arriving at the University of South Bohemia are invited to participate in intensive Czech courses and during each semester they can move up two levels in accredited courses of Czech language. USB also offers International Student Club services - not only to students within the Programme, but also to other incoming international students.

USB will continue to prepare accreditation of double/multiple/joint degree programmes at all levels of study (first, second and third cycle) at most of the eight faculties.

USB is working to promote the Programme among the academic and administrative staff. For most teaching mobilities within the participating countries, the academic staff use the Programme; for countries which are not included, other grants, such as the Institutional Development Plan supported by MEYS, are used. We expect the extension of employee mobility outside the countries currently involved following the extension of the Programme beyond Europe, especially to North and South America, Asia and Australia.

USB expects an increase in the interest in mobility programmes, mainly to countries outside the EU, but we also expect to maintain the amount of mobilities in EU countries carried out under the Programme as part of the long-term USB internalization strategy.

To promote and support interest in mobility, USB organizes meetings with students run by the International Student Club, the International Relations Offices of individual faculties, or - at the institutional level - by the USB International Relations Office. USB prepares an International Week project and is building a tradition of lectures given by experts from cooperating universities. An International Fair is being prepared as part of the International Week, with the aim to introduce each cooperating country and university to USB students interested in going abroad.

One of the priorities of USB is to create an international environment through international cooperation on double/multiple/joint degree programmes at all levels and in as many fields of study as possible. There is also a strong desire and effort to create more accredited degree programmes in other languages and to create more short-term student exchange modules. Every year USB organizes a number of summer schools in cooperation with partner universities, which are open to the students of USB as well as international students.

USB declares the need for employee mobility for the personal and career growth of its academic staff.

The activities of each cooperation and partnership agreement are monitored annually which helps to highlight future opportunities and new ways of cooperation at the mobility level between the current and potential cooperating institutions.



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