Jihočeská univerzita
v Českých Budějovicích
University of South Bohemia
in České Budějovice

Erasmus Policy Statement

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (USB) supports international cooperation with all world-renowned universities. Current bilateral cooperation covers most countries participating within the Programme and other countries within Europe. USB prefers active contacts with the current partners and would like to support the bilateral mobility with any grants and scholarships from different sources, not only from EU grants. Cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries is very important.

The search for partners for both academic and mobility projects is mainly the responsibility of faculty representatives. The main impulse often originates from active and personal cooperation between two or more partners and is based on a scientific, research and educational background. In some cases students can find another university similar to USB and contact an authorised person at the faculty/department level with a request for cooperation, especially in the field of exchange mobility. The geographical area for cooperation is open to the entire world, but currently the cooperation works in most countries in Europe, rather than in Asia, Africa, Australia, North America and South America within different grant programmes.

USB has two target groups for international cooperation: incoming students in all types of study programmes, educators and research staff and incoming international students and staff. USB supports mobility for local students who want to go abroad to get to know through study or traineeship a type of studying and work experience other than those at a home university. USB considers it important to share experience with international mobility with every student who is interested in foreign experience as part of study mobility and traineeships.

Another strategy of USB is to create possible opportunities for mobility of educators and research staff in the form of instruction and scientific stays abroad. USB considers the foreign service of their employees to be an integral part of their professional career.

The academic staff are also motivated to try a kind of mobility abroad in order to gain new experience from colleagues from partner universities and from other kinds of teaching methods and techniques. USB would like to raise the percentage of the international students registered in the degree programmes and within any short-term exchange programmes. Therefore, USB is working on creating degree programmes accredited in English or other foreign languages. International students coming to USB are invited to attend intensive Czech language courses and during every semester up to two levels of Czech language in an accredited course. USB also offers services of the International Student Club both for students within the Programme and for other incoming international students.

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

USB is working on promoting the Programme among the academic and administrative staff. Its organisation originates from the current situation. For most of the teaching mobility within the participating countries, the academic staff of USB use the Programme, and outside the participating countries they use other types of grants, such as the Institutional Development Plan supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic. We are expecting the development of the staff mobility outside the participating countries after the extension of the Programme outside the Europe, particularly to North and South America, Asia and Australia.

USB expects growth of interest in the mobility programmes especially in non-EU countries, but it also expects the maintenance of the number of the mobility opportunities in EU countries within the Programme as the part of the long-term internationalisation strategy of USB.

To promote and support the interest in mobility, USB establishes interactive meetings with students organised by the International Student Club, the Department for International Relations of each faculty and/or at the institutional level of the Department for International Relations of USB. USB is effectively preparing the International Week project and establishing a tradition of lectures by experts from cooperating universities. As part of International Week, we have prepared an International Fair with the aim of introducing each cooperating country and university to the students of USB who may be interested in going abroad.

One of the priorities of USB is to create an international atmosphere thanks to international cooperation within the double/multiple/joint degrees at all levels and in as many fields of study as possible. There is also strong pressure to accredit more degree programmes in foreign languages and to create more modules for short-term exchange students. Every year USB organises several summer school programmes in cooperation with the partner universities opened to all students from USB and from abroad.

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

The yearly monitoring of the activity of each cooperation agreement and partnership shows the future possibilities and new options and opportunities for cooperation between current and potential cooperating institutions at the mobility level.

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