



## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

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## Lund University's Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

Call: EACEA-03-2020-1 – Erasmus Charter for Higher Education

Project: 101013090 - LU

### **What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?**

Lund University (LU) Lund University (LU) addresses intellectual and global challenges through high-profile research, education, innovation and interaction with society. To reach the LU vision of “being a world-class university that works to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition”, internationalisation is one of six priority areas. The Erasmus+ Programme provides essential support to ambitions in the LU Strategic Plan 2017-2026 as well as for reaching the goals in the LU Action Plan for Internationalisation 2019-2021.

As a research-intensive and comprehensive university, LU already has substantial international links in both education and research. These includes strategic networks such as the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and Universitas 21 (U21) as well as participation in national, regional, European and international collaboration programmes. Within the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027, LU aims to build on existing and well-established partnerships but also strengthen younger and less developed collaborations. LU will also actively work for the development of new partnerships based on the principle of respect, inclusion, mutual relevance and benefits for the

institutions and individuals involved. With quality as the guiding principle, preference will be given to partnerships with a potential for long-term collaboration and a wide range of joint activities.

The European University Alliance for GLObal Health (EUGLOH), in which LU is one of five partners, will be a driving force to achieve the goals and ambitions of LU. Tools and routines developed within the EUGLOH alliance will also benefit internationalisation throughout LU. The alliance will, for instance, implement seamless mobility for students, staff and professionals. The number of long and short mobilities at all levels within the network will be increased. The aim is also to develop possibilities for virtual as well as blended mobility. For the work package coordinated by LU – to develop joint curricula design and create joint Master's programmes – relevant support structures will be set up. Furthermore, the EUGLOH alliance will be in the forefront of implementing the Erasmus Student Card Initiative.

Cooperation between universities in different countries is essential and strengthens the international community. LU defends the freedom, integrity and quality of education and research, and underlines that higher education and research shall contribute to democracy and sustainable development. With this in mind, LU aims for a balanced and diverse set of partners, reflecting a multitude of research and educational foci, geographical locations, languages and cultures. Therefore, it has been decided that a specific project will review all student exchange partner universities and propose a more suitable constellation of partners. LU also aims for more focused partnerships with prioritised partners through guidance from already developed regional action plans for collaboration with Africa, Asia and Great Britain, and from such plans to be developed for Europe, China, Latin America, the Middle East, and North America. The action plans and partnerships will be implemented through participation in the Erasmus+ Programme and other funding programmes.

LU seeks to integrate an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of high-quality

higher education. A key aspect of this broad goal is to provide students, faculty and staff with opportunities to gain international experience and build intercultural competencies, either by spending time abroad or on the LU campus. To reach the target of 25% outgoing mobility, LU also seeks, for instance, to implement mobility windows in all relevant curricula and increase participation in mobility programmes. LU will develop the international learning environment at home and strengthen intercultural competencies. This will in turn provide internationalisation opportunities for groups of students that do not normally spend part of their studies abroad. LU will also increase recruitment of both international and domestic students to our international Master's programmes. Academic staff mobility will be further encouraged and information on opportunities enhanced.

LU seeks to improve employability and widen the range of opportunities for our students to gain core competencies and international experience beyond long study periods, for example through work placements, internships and short-cycle mobility such as summer courses. LU also particularly aims for further developing organised mobility for third cycle students as well as increasing the visibility of mobility opportunities and resources for this group of students. Alumni are a resource for internationalisation that will be developed. A key factor for all mobility measures is to ensure availability of funding from the EU, as well as from other sources.

An important cornerstone for internationalisation is a professional staff and relevant support structure. LU therefore aims to provide increased and diversified opportunities for professional development and language skills, through activities such as job shadowing, study visits, network activities, conference attendance and exchange of best practice. LU is working rapidly to fully digitalise the administrative process around mobilities including digital exchange and learning agreements as well as recognition of credits earned abroad. Erasmus without papers offers important solutions for streamlining the process with other universities. The aim is also to develop the level of

digitalisation of the international office with support from tools such as artificial intelligence. LU also has the aim of modernising teaching and learning. Remote learning and examination have rapidly been implemented as a means to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and the aim is to evaluate and further develop the quality of remote learning.

Sustainability is today a key aspect in all LU activities. The ambition is to contribute to sustainable economic, social and environmental development through education and research as well as by acting as a responsible and attractive employer and higher education institution. LU has recently adopted a Sustainability Strategy for the period 2019-2026 as well as a new travel policy with a strong emphasis on sustainable travelling. LU has also developed an interdisciplinary and international graduate research school on Agenda 2030. The shift towards sustainable internationalisation will be supported by, for instance, more environmentally friendly possibilities in the new Erasmus+ Programme such as train travel scholarships.

**Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.**

LU has been an active and leading university in the current Erasmus+ Programme (2014-2020) and in previous programmes such as LLP, Erasmus Mundus and Tempus, as coordinator as well as partner. The plan is to continue to be a leading university in Europe in the new Erasmus+ Programme. The LU Action Plan for Internationalisation (2019-2021) defines 36 concrete goals for the development of four main areas. The four areas are: 1) development of students' international experience and intercultural competence, 2) reinforcement of quality and utilisation of research through international cooperation, 3) reinforcement of international cooperation in order to contribute regarding global challenges and Agenda 2030, and 4) development of international experience and intercultural competence for staff. The plan provides a firm framework for participation in all expected Erasmus+ actions. The

participation is also supported by the 2017-2026 LU Strategic Plan in which continued development as an international university is one priority.

In the coming programme period, the EUGLOH alliance will be fully rolled out. The alliance will be a core activity in achieving relevant LU goals, and it is envisaged that all Erasmus+ actions will be implemented within the EUGLOH alliance. The ambition is for increased staff and student mobility (KA1), increased digitalisation through implementing the European Student Card Initiative, increased participation in cooperation projects, especially Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD; KA2) as well as policy development (KA3). EMJMD has been an important tool for developing joint programmes in the past. We have recently applied for a new EMJMD with our partners in EUGLOH and two new EUGLOH EMJMDs will be submitted for funding.

LU will also participate in the Erasmus+ key actions with European partners other than the EUGLOH partners as well as non-European partners. Building on previous collaborations and experiences, LU seeks to further encourage staff at all levels of the organisation to take part in, and coordinate, international cooperation projects. Mobility and participation in international cooperation projects is a key tool for the modernisation of LU, for the exchange of best practices and innovations, and for strengthening the knowledge triangle. Through participation in mobility projects, cooperation projects and policy development projects, LU will not only strengthen its visibility and presence as a global actor, but also increase opportunities for international engagement for staff and students. The activities will also be a means to strengthen long-term strategic partnerships and establish new partnerships.

The LU International Office has staff devoted to the Erasmus+ funding programmes. They are responsible for the promotion and dissemination of information within LU as well as being the representative of LU when needed. Guidelines and handbooks are continuously developed not only to facilitate participation in the

funding programmes, but also to improve the quality and the sustainability of international cooperation. High quality management of funds and projects is guaranteed by the existence of expertise at all levels of LU. Efficient support structures are available and are continually developed. Regarding sending students abroad and receiving students from abroad, resources are particularly well developed including skilled staff, knowhow and administrative tools such as databases and handbooks. The academic, administrative and social procedures for sending and receiving students are well-developed and quality-assured as a result of lengthy experience in serving the needs of diverse populations of mobile individuals from inside and outside Europe. Best practices are used for awareness-raising and information is spread through the internet, newsletters and meetings.

**What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution? Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.**

LU's participation in the Erasmus+ Programme is envisaged to have a positive impact on the internationalisation of all parts of LU including teaching and learning, administration and innovation, and includes students, academic and administrative staff. In addition, the participation in the programme is considered as a framework to quality assure internationalisation at LU. Through active LU participation in Erasmus+, LU will be an integral part of, as well as a contributor to, the strengthening of the European Higher Education Area. This participation will also contribute to global development and the sustainable development goals. The quality of education and research at LU is expected to be further increased, and the linkages between education and research as well as between education and society will be strengthened. Employability, improved language skills,

increased cultural awareness amongst staff and students, and promotion of innovation are other expected positive impacts. Furthermore, digitalisation of LU will be further advanced and the transition to more sustainable internationalisation will be supported.

The goals in the LU Action Plan for Internationalisation correspond well with the overall targets and ambitions of the Erasmus+ Programme. Various key actions of Erasmus+ will be important tools in implementing the local action plan. The EUGLOH alliance will play an important role in achieving the set targets. EUGLOH is expected to be a catalyst for increased LU participation in Erasmus+.

***Students and staff gain international experience and develop intercultural competence (KAI)***

LU strives to increase student mobility to reach the national goal of 25% of students who complete a degree pursuing part of their studies abroad. This will be achieved through promoting student mobility in general, but specifically Erasmus mobility. An even higher percentage than 25% is expected to be achieved when we count in short-term mobility, virtual exchange, blended mobility and internships abroad, which are not included in the statistics. The participation in EUGLOH will contribute significantly to this goal, as 50% of the LU students are envisaged to benefit from an international experience within EUGLOH by 2025.

EUGLOH will also be fundamental in increasing staff mobility for teaching and training. Furthermore, LU is currently working on a project with the goal to develop LU staff mobility for different staff groups. Recognition of staff mobility will play an important role.

Increased internationalisation at home will also play an important role in increasing intercultural competence and international experience amongst students and staff. In this regard, close contact with international students and staff who are on mobility at LU will be an important factor. Information and documentation on educational development for the internationalisation of teaching and training with multicultural student groups will be provided to the teaching staff at

LU. The support services for exchange students and for staff, both incoming and outgoing, will continuously be developed. This includes, for instance, incoming students' access to accommodation, language training and language support, support with regard to mental health issues, etc. For incoming staff, welcoming procedures will be further developed as well as relevant tools and support with the aim to develop the welcome and introduction to LU as a workplace and to Swedish society as a whole. Outgoing students will be well prepared for their mobility through specific arrangements such as for example an event called "Time to Go".

***Increased collaboration with universities abroad (KA2 and KA3)***

LU plans to participate in a large number of Erasmus+ collaboration projects, both as partner and as coordinator. A strong participation will enhance LU's possibilities to contribute to the work on the global challenges and Agenda 2030. By the end of 2020, LU will have drawn up suggestions on how to further develop LU's participation in collaboration programmes during the new Erasmus+ Programme period. One important factor will be to further improve the support services at the LU International Office, to provide the high-quality support for staff to successfully apply and implement collaboration projects.

EUGLOH will also be a driving factor at LU. Within EUGLOH, a number of EMJMDs are planned, as well as projects supporting innovative practices in education, connecting higher education and business in innovative approaches to teaching and learning, etc.