



UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS  
SCIENCE FOR THE PROFESSIONS

## Erasmus Policy Statement – Erasmus+ 2014 – 2020

UB's policy and strategies for internationalisation are directly in line with the aims of the programme and with the higher education modernisation agenda.

UB's motto is "Science for the professions", which is the central theme of the university's activities in research, education and international mobility and partnerships. This motto means that UB's activities are performed in partnership with actors in and outside academia, and that education and research includes its implementation in the public and private sectors. This is entirely in line with the modernisation agenda, where education is aimed to equip students with knowledge that is relevant to the labour market, as well as with skills needed for future markets. This includes local, national, European and global markets. The education, research and business triangle is strengthened by, for example, including experts from outside academia in all of the university's steering boards and when reviewing new education programmes. It is important for UB that students develop professional networks and gain practical experience. To this end, UB students participate in international exchanges and experiences, in internships and traineeships in Europe and in conducting fieldwork in developing countries. UB also offers the "Fast Track" programme for foreign academics, which enhances their employability.

UB understands the importance of a large amount of mobility for staff and students in all academic cycles for continued improvement in the quality of the University's education and research. Thanks to the availability of funding programmes such as Erasmus, the number of incoming and outgoing students has increased over recent years, and in 2012 there were more exchange students in the Erasmus programme than in any preceding year. It is of strategic importance for UB to continue to increase this number.

The university leadership, including the Vice-Chancellor and Heads of schools, ensure that the geographical areas selected for mobility and partnerships are chosen to achieve the strategic goals of the university. Most of the current and planned activities are within the European Union, although there are substantial activities outside Europe. For example, in 2012, 77 % of UB's exchange agreements were with universities in countries that participate in the programme. Examples of countries outside Europe where UB has strong partnerships are China, Nigeria and Brazil.

UB has, over the past 2-3 years, intensified its efforts to include student mobility in all of its education programmes. For example, in 2012 the vice-chancellor made € 20 000 available from his strategic funds in order to fund scholarships for outgoing students (the number of applications was far more than could be funded from programmes such as Erasmus).

It is also of strategic importance to the university to develop strong collaborations with a few selected international universities and partners (e.g., in the business sector). One of the aims of these strategic partnerships is to allow for longterm planning that facilitates the development of joint curricula that can lead to double, multiple or joint degrees. At present UB is a partner in an Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral degree programme in 'Sustainable Management and Design for Textiles' (five partners and 30 PhD students) and the university has recently started a double degree programme in 'International Marketing and IT' with partners in China. External funding, such as that offered in the present programme, is important for UB to achieve these goals.

We merge, both strategically and operationally, the international dimension with other prioritised dimensions, such as equal access, sustainable development, quality assurance and research and education, in order to obtain synergistic effects. This is done, for example, via regular meetings of the Quality council, under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, where the people that are responsible for the strategic develop of these areas meet. This ensures vertical and horizontal coordination. The same holds for the work of the international coordinators located centrally and at the six schools.

Due to the importance of internationalisation, UB applies for – and will continue to apply for – funding from several sources. Examples are STINT, The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education, SIDA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Nordic Council of Ministers. We coordinated an Erasmus Mundus project (EM EuroAsia) in a consortium including European and South East Asian HEIs, and we are a partner in two other Erasmus Mundus projects (TOSCA) directed to Central Asia. This has, in turn, led to new partnerships with, for example, Tempus funding.

One of UB's strategies is to continue to develop collaboration with international partners. At present, the six schools at UB have developed strategic partnerships in areas relevant to their education and research, and the University, under the direct leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, is engaged in developing selected partnerships, each of which has areas of interest relevant to most of the schools. This will enable a university-wide collaboration that will, among other things, strengthen the university's cross-disciplinary education and research. UB believes that this cross-disciplinarity is crucial for education and research aimed at solving global challenges.

UB is involved in knowledge exchange for modernisation in education. An example is the EM EuroAsia project (<http://www.em-euroasia.org/>) which was an Erasmus Mundus (EM) action 2 programme covering all cycles of studies and academic staff. This project was coordinated by UB between 2009 and 2012 and included countries in Europe and South East Asia. The university has also been a partner in two other EM projects, TOSCA I & II (Transfer of Skills to Central Asia) between 2010 and 2016, enabling students and staff to study and train at UB.

Another example of a strategic partnership is that with between UB (and other partners from Borås) with academia, local authorities and businesses in Yogyakarta, Indonesia where research and education in waste recovery has been implemented in local market places to convert waste into electricity. This partnership involved both the education of Indonesian students, needed to develop local infrastructure, as well as discussions with local politicians

and businesses to implement the knowledge. UB also has strategic partnerships in areas such as pedagogy (a Life Long Learning programme with partners from other European countries), library & information sciences and healthcare. These partnerships enable capacity building in Sweden, other European countries and globally.