

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

Universidad Villanueva (UV) is conceived as a private university with an international vocation consolidated by ample experience in this field. For nearly a decade, Centro Universitario Villanueva (CUV), as a higher education centre affiliated with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), has participated in Erasmus student and faculty mobility programmes through agreements managed by the UCM. On the one hand, this has allowed several hundred CUV students to enrich their education over the years with a sojourn in one of the Erasmus programme countries, and on the other hand, approximately 4,500 students have been able to participate in courses offered by CUV in Madrid, contributing with their presence towards strengthening the European identity of our local students, and at the same time, making them aware of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity. Teacher mobility has been rather scant: in fact, encouraging the participation of teacher-researchers in national and international projects is also a priority objective for UV's strategic plan during the initial years.

From the very onset, CUV has been a pioneer in considering international experience to be an essential aspect of the training it demanded for its students. In this regard, CUV has been a member of the EBS network for over a decade.

European Business Schools International (EBS) emerged as an association of business schools that wanted to include internationality as an essential mark of their identity. The University degree programme in business management lasted for four years. The third course was held entirely abroad following this format: 4 months of on-site academic study in one of the group's schools (in English) plus two months of internship in that country; in the second semester, 4 months of on-site academic study in a third language (Spanish, German, French or Italian) plus two more months of internship. EBS Paris, EBS London, EBS Dublin, EBS Madrid, MBS Munich and EBS Milan were founding members of this network, which later on opened to collaborations from other countries (USA-NY, Mauritius, Kaliningrad). Learning languages (English + German or French) was compulsory throughout the four years of study and these courses were considered just as important as the others. At the time, CUV successfully promoted a combination degree in Law + EBS, which attracted a great amount of students, provided excellent academic results and a 98% employment rate within six months of graduation.

Moreover, since 2015, UV has been a member of BUSINET, a network of universities founded in 1987 and currently made up of 114 higher education institutions from 31 different countries. BUSINET promotes the exchange of students and professors, as well as taking part in specialized International Weeks with the direct participation of companies, research groups and different work groups divided by areas (Law, Communication, Education, Entrepreneurship, Interculturalism, etc.).

Internationalisation is an integral part of the essence of UV, and over the next few years, one of our main strategic goals is to boost various measures that will help our teacher-researchers and students, as well as the administrative and support staff, to gain a global vision. In particular, by:

- Incorporating an international perspective into our academic offer, by increasing the number of courses taught in English or in a bilingual mode.
- Offering students the possibility to study and intern abroad, while instilling in them the need for continuing education to meet the demands of a globalized society, so that, eventually, this type of mobility becomes the norm.
- Improving the language levels of teachers, students and administrative and support staff, primarily in English, but also in a second foreign language.
- Promoting activities that will help to increase the number of foreign students who come to UV for study purposes, as well as those that contribute to the integration of these foreign students with local Spanish students.
- Encouraging inbound foreign students to learn Spanish, through an attractive offer of ELE (Spanish as a Foreign Language) classes, in addition to their classes in English.
- Promoting the international mobility of UV's teacher-research staff, as well as attracting foreign professors and lecturers to carry out teaching and research stays at our university.
- Developing international academic and research collaboration projects with other university institutions.
- Renewing the agreements already in place with foreign universities, but now as a private university, and seek further agreements with common minded university institutions.

For all of the above, the Erasmus programme has been of vital importance to us, and our experience —through the UCM— has made this clear. We therefore believe that participation in this programme will continue to make a very significant contribution to the process of modernization, one which we have been committed to for years.

During the initial phase, UV's participation in Erasmus actions will be limited, as before, to Key Action 1 (KA1), aimed at mobility for learning purposes. We believe that, in the short term, the achievement of the internationalisation objectives set out in our strategic plan requires that UV consolidate and increase student mobility, as well as promote a culture of mobility amongst teaching and research staff. Subsequently, collaborative alliances and exchange of good practices will be sought, as envisaged in Key Action 2 (KA2).

The experience we have acquired over the years in mobility management, in conjunction with the UCM, has provided us with the knowledge and human resources necessary to be able to move forward and continue to participate in KA1-type activities, with the same efficacy as up until now. Furthermore, this previous knowledge will enable us to achieve the strategic objectives of our institution. Namely:

- It will improve the learning outcomes and consequently the employability and career prospects of our students.
- It will help them learn to take initiative, become more independent and with greater self-esteem.
- It will give them a deeper understanding of social, linguistic and cultural diversity, and help them become aware of the importance of internationalisation and become active participants of it.
- It will make them understand the need to welcome and integrate foreign students coming to UV to study.
- It will improve their foreign language skills.
- It will increase their European and intercultural awareness.

And with respect to the teacher-researcher staff:

- It will improve their teaching and research skills.
- It will put them in contact with other educational systems and other teaching and research methods, which will enable them to bring about changes in terms of modernisation within the University as well as have a more international mindset.
- It will give them a more in depth understanding of social, linguistic and cultural diversity and help them to raise awareness amongst the student body of the importance of internationalisation.
- It will broaden their opportunities for professional and academic career development.
- It will improve their foreign language skills.
- It will increase their European and intercultural awareness.
- And it will increase their motivation towards their profession.

At the institutional level, the expected impact of UV's participation in the Erasmus+ programme can be summarised as follows:

- Internationalisation will increasingly be a key part of UV's strategic plan.
- It will provide UV with a greater capacity to operate in the international sphere and will encourage the training of administrative and support staff in this respect.
- It will improve UV's website in terms of the information offered to international students —both incoming and outgoing— as well as the presentation of the institution's internationalisation strategy in the short, medium and long term.
- It will lead to considering increasing the budget for organising international projects.
- It will lead to improving communication channels within the university community, so that the voice of all members participating in the programme —managers, teachers, students, and administrative and support staff— is heard and procedures can be optimised.
- It will involve improving the offer and services for incoming students, making UV an attractive international destination.
- It will help to make the whole UV community, including students, teacher-researchers and administration and support staff, understand the importance of internationalisation.

We believe that the following indicators will be proof that the above is taking place:

- An increase in the percentage of students who complete their undergraduate or graduate studies with an international experience of at least two months. The goal, over the next five years, is to double the number of students who go abroad for academic mobility.
- An increase in the level of English of our students, accredited by official qualifications.
- An increase in the number of students who can function in a second foreign language and thus obtain the corresponding qualifications.
- Improvement in the range of courses offered to foreign students, meaning an increase in the number of subjects taught in English and the offer of short stays during the academic year (International Weeks) or during the summer.
- An increase in the number of local students participating in UV's *buddies* programme.
- UV's participation in one of the cooperation programmes under Key Action 2 (KA2) in the coming years.
- An increased budget allocation for internationalisation, specifically, to allow administrative and support staff to dedicate more time to this type of task.
- Translation into English of all sections of the website, not only those dedicated to international activities.
- An improvement in the results of the satisfaction surveys completed by incoming and outgoing students.
- Development of an app for students with updated information on international news.
- Implementation of a digital mobility management policy in accordance with the technical standards of the European Student Card initiative, following the established calendar, which foresees its full implementation in 2025.
- An increase in the percentage of UV teacher-researchers who participate in international mobility programmes. The aim is to achieve an increase of at least 50% over the next five years.
- The participation of administrative and support staff in training courses abroad related to the international activity of UV. We expect this can be done within five years.