



NOVA  
UNIVERZA

FAKULTETA ZA SLOVENSKE  
IN MEDNARODNE ŠTUDIJE

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

**Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees:**

Faculty of Slovenian and International Studies, a member of New University, was founded as a private higher education institution with elements of public-private partnership. Founded in 2012, the Faculty is a young institution with a clearly outlined objectives in academic and research activities, offering unique study programme under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Slovenia. Faculty of Slovenian and International Studies is well aware of the importance of collaboration with international partners across Europe and beyond. Slovenian studies is an interdisciplinary field of study, rooted in the comprehensive, multi-dimensional analysis of intellectual traditions in the humanities and social sciences. Slovenian Studies scholars have developed new methods and theories that help us understand the and gender identity in Slovenia combined with the transnational links and global contexts that shape this culture. Faculty strives to promote and deepen integration in European Union which hopefully leads to the consolidation of common values, while increased globalization brings new opportunities for enhanced cooperation within the international community. With this in mind, the Faculty seeks partners within international higher education community, who share mutual academic and research values, as well as interest in interdisciplinary field of scholarship that examine history, society and culture of nations. As the Faculty's main academic research orientation is in studies of Slovenian phenomena in a wider European and international scope, we aim to represent a higher educational institution where experts from different cultures and geographical backgrounds can meet and share their invaluable knowledge to a wide scope of individuals. The latter is especially important to the Faculty as is it our objective to make a higher educational community more inclusive. The aim of the Faculty is to establish Erasmus+ cooperation with higher education institutions in all countries who are a part of Erasmus+ programme. The Faculty also promotes cooperation with other public and private institutions as a part of the training mobility in Europe and beyond. Based in the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, the Faculty has a privilege of having a geostrategic position where many cultures and nations flow in coexistence. Hence the visitors have an advantage of experiencing the prevailing Slovene culture in an international setting while at the same time enjoying prime education. Since the Faculty's lecturers are active participants at international conferences, there are already some expressed interests in cooperation, for example from the Faculty of Humanities, in Kraków, Poland and Università degli Studi G. d'Annunzio Chieti, Pescara, Italy. The Faculty shares their interest and plans to act on it while concurrently prudently seeking other higher educational institutions to cooperate with. Following the award of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, the Faculty is going to actively invest in establishing formal bilateral agreements regarding the educational and research purposes. First, we will formally establish the agreements with several higher education institutions throughout



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Europe that Faculty have already cooperated with, later on with other interested higher education institutions. The latter is also in line with the institutional internationalisation strategy and will allow the Faculty to extend its visiting lecturers programme. The benefits of visiting lecturers will undoubtedly affect our students who cannot attend the mobility. Equally, if not even more important, the Faculty's long-term goal for mobilities is in accordance with the principles of renewed EU agenda for higher education as well as a European Education Area for target groups for mobility, which

includes students of all study cycles. At the moment, the Faculty runs a Bachelor study programme but is already in the accreditation process for both Master's and PhD study programmes. In due time we plan to involve students of all cycles in the mobility so they can all enrich their educational experience. Firstly, we would like to offer our students exchange for training purposes so they can use the acquired knowledge and strengthen it in practice. Secondly, we plan to involve our academic and administrative staff in the exchange as we believe it will lead to interchange of good practices of all involved and enabling us to enrich the educational experience on all levels for all participants. Especially important is the exchange of academic staff as the exchange gives a unique experience of being able to share your knowledge whilst also broadening it and then being able to implement it in their academic and research work. In our opinion, participating in the exchange programme is beneficial for both students and academic as well as administrative staff. By being a part of Erasmus+ program one gains new hard skills and soft competences.

**Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. If not applicable, please explain:**

The strategy of organisation and implementation of international projects is an inherent part of the institutional documents. Being a part of the Erasmus+ exchange and other international cooperation is one of the main goals the Faculty is striving towards. Following the award of Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, the Faculty will earnestly begin the process of signing the inter-institutional agreements. Before signing the agreements, we will strategically search for potential higher education institutions, choosing amongst those who share our values and objectives for an inclusive and diverse European education community. We will sign agreements with those who have already expressed their interest in collaborating with us while simultaneously seeking other partners. On the Faculty level we are planning to establish International office who will advise both outgoing and incoming students and staff members. International Office will take care of signing the inter-institutional agreements as well as making sure the Faculty is up to date with international projects that we might participate in. Students Affairs Office and financial administration are supporting the international department for their own respective fields. The Faculty also plans to cooperate with the New University, who is currently in the process of obtaining Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, and other Faculties, members of the University. The Faculty will update its curriculum in English language and translate all legal acts as to make it accessible to students and broader public who do not speak Slovene. All of the documents will be available in the English section of the Faculty's website. All described will enable the Faculty to further develop and strengthen its reputation as a prime education and research institution in Slovenia and internationally.



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**Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the priorities of the renewed EU Agenda for higher education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area\* and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue:**

Since its founding in 2012 the Faculty strongly believes that vast knowledge of a certain subject leads to greater understanding amongst people and that investing in education is essentially investing in people and society as a whole. The latter is just one of the Faculty's and European Commission's shared goals. We believe that the Faculty's participation in the Erasmus+ programme would benefit both our institution as well as wider community. We try to make our study programme approachable to people from all backgrounds and ages. We firmly believe learning is a lifelong process, whereas education and up-skilling are integral parts of a person's progress. All mentioned leads to a person being a more sought after and flexible workforce. People who wide their education are also more confident and resilient in an economy that is not impervious to shocks and changes. We also think that participation in the Erasmus+ programme will help us modernise the exchange of knowledge between a lecturer and students and give the opportunity for developing new didactical approaches. We are already applying e-lectures alongside classic lectures as a way to reach more students and help them tailor the schedule according to their needs and time. We intend to provide lectures in Slovene and English or, alternatively, also other language. Lectures in English will mostly be held by guest lecturers whom we will host as a part of the Erasmus+ programme or other project we will participate in. Both students and lecturers can access the e-lectures for free as we are sure this plays a key role in making knowledge more accessible. It is essential that we provide lectures in at least two languages because this brings a certain language closer to the listener which makes it easier to broaden a person's language skills. Another benefit of e-lectures is also increasing the digital literacy of students and lecturers, which is something a lot of people are lacking according to the European Commission's surveys. Since only 3,7 % of young people have the chance to take part in a mobility, we hope that in being a part of the Erasmus+ programme we will help increase this percentage and make mobility more accessible to our students, however, we also hope to bring the Erasmus+ programme to our doorstep with hosting esteemed lecturers and students from partner higher education institutions which will bring cultures and people closer together and sure help make a more unified European Union. It is only when we are equal in diversity we can truly come together as Europeans and citizens of the globe.