



Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (HR) has a policy on internationalisation which is focused on integrated embedding of internationalisation in its strategic policy. This is considered important because of international, national and regional developments. The main motives are:

- increasing internationalisation of the labour market and professional practice;
- advancing integration within the EU;
- stricter international rules for professional practice;
- increasing mobility of labour and companies increasingly orienting towards the international (European) market;
- there is a national requirement that the achievement level acquired on completion of the study programmes should fit in with the level acquired by foreign (European) colleagues;
- the growing competition on the education market;
- the international (European) and multicultural dimension of Rotterdam and its ambitions to be a strong, internationally competitive city.

HR has the following international ambitions:

1. Training students who are familiar with the international aspects of professional profiles and professional practice, and who are capable of functioning in an international (European) and intercultural professional practice.
2. Enforcing the university's competitive position both in the Netherlands and abroad by offering up-to-date, innovative study programmes using the available opportunities and attractive to regional, national and International students.
3. Participation in international (European) projects fitting in with the strategic spearheads of HR, used to present itself as an innovative knowledge institution.

Implementation of these ambitions will particularly be realised by the following instruments:

- a. Internationalisation at home. HR has chosen to consider IAH as the main instrument to promote internationalisation of its curriculum throughout its institution. Incoming European mobility (teaching staff and students), participation in European networks, etcetera, enables strong support of this form of internationalisation.
- b. Student and staff mobility. It is important for the University's schools to decide on mobility (related to professional profiles). Factors important in the selection of countries are: leading professional developments, affinity with the view on education and the extent to which a partner will be able to contribute to knowledge development and expertise related to the University's spearheads.

- c. Export of knowledge: offering study programmes to international fee paying students who want to pursue a degree or shorter programme (for instance an international minor or summer programme).
- d. Projects: specifically aimed at cooperation with multiple European partner institutions, as well as with partner institutions outside Europe. All projects should result in intrinsic enforcement and exchange of knowledge focused around the University's spearheads. There is a preference for multidisciplinary projects.

Cooperation with higher education institutions in the EU and companies in the context of the Erasmus+ programme is an important objective for most schools at HR.

Approximately half of the exchanges are realised within the EU (slight focus on Germany, UK, France, Spain, Scandinavia). Others are focussed on China, USA, Indonesia, Japan, Brazil, Russia, Surinam and the Dutch Antilles.

HR 's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme:

- The international office publishes the information they receive on European and international cooperation projects from the National Agency, the European Commission, colleagues and other information suppliers through mailings, website and intranet.
- Some schools have their own subsidy and project coordinators who publish and disseminate these opportunities within their schools and look for cooperation with other schools within HR.
- Schools are free to initiate and/or cooperate as long as the projects are in line with the institutional policy and the vision set by the institute itself.
- All projects that are applied for that convene amounts higher than € 50.000 have to be reviewed by a committee (board of directors) before the proposal can be sent in.
- Support (regarding finances, administration, promotion, legal issues, etc.) can be found at the central departments and within the schools.

The expected impact on our participation in the Programme on the modernisation of our institution in terms of the policy objectives we intend to achieve can be described as:

- Increase the output (higher % of students that complete their degree in a short time) and improve the transfer from senior secondary vocational education (MBO) to higher vocational education (HBO).
- Improve the cooperation of the existing bodies of knowledge with the schools, while focussing research on the educational programmes, the practical issues and the business environment.
- Increase and improve the international opportunities for students and staff by improving the cooperation between the schools and reforming the international support (central/decentral).

HR wishes to be closely connected with society and to teach their students to link their knowledge and skills to a sense of social responsibility. Therefore, we cooperate closely with enterprises and organisations. This benefits both the business environment as well as the quality of our education. Project assignments,

internships and graduation projects are an important part of the curriculum. Development and dissemination of knowledge is part of our commitment of strengthening and developing professional practise. To achieve this, research groups and lectureships have been established that work closely with relevant study programmes, professors, lecturers, students and experts from the professional field to address issues that require a multidisciplinary approach.

- Quality assurance is integrated in the HR institution as a whole and in all schools and departments separately. All deans and directors have implemented a quality assurance system and have developed:
 - specific and measurable targets
 - a planning & control cyclus
 - the whole cycle: plan, do, check, act
 - cohesion between actions, improvements
 - a complete system (including all aspects)

In order to produce:

- work descriptions (including procedures and instructions)
- valid and secure review tools
- yearly annual improvements
- quality handbook

These quality systems should assure a similar and coherent vision and execution of the ambitions HR has set: training its students, strengthening HR's position and participate in international programmes and projects.