

B. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

X The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

UoC is a modern, research-led Higher Educational Institution. The University's international orientation is characteristic for faculty members as well as educational programs and research at all levels. The international outlook is also evident through inter-institutional collaborations in many of the graduate degree programs offered by the UoC.

Benchmarking with other Universities worldwide indicates that UoC is an active partner in these networks, pursuing excellence in line with its mission and strategic priorities. In May 2012, UoC was ranked in the 50th place among the 100 "ambitious new universities" less than 50 years according to the Times Higher Education. In July 2012 UoC was awarded the "HR Excellence in Research" logo by the EU. This achievement was the result of the institutional strategy emphasizing on the importance of internationalization. Internationalization stands also for openness, freedom of thought, pluralism and non-discrimination of sex, health, origin, race or belief.

In terms of policy, UoC supports the international educational and research initiatives of faculty and strives to keep abreast of EU and international developments. A considerable number of research and educational programs such as TMR, MED-Campus, FP7, Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, Jean Monnet, Leonardo da Vinci and LLP/Erasmus are currently being implemented. At a departmental level, the international and EU links vary considerably among different Schools. The Faculty members participate in cooperative projects based on common research interests. UoC currently processes 435 bilateral exchange agreements, the establishment of which is based on previous academic relations between faculty on different fields of study and research. Quality of studies as well as EU standards is always taken into account. In parallel, the Erasmus program has offered over the past years a unique opportunity for organized student mobility and has greatly facilitated students to familiarize themselves with other EU countries/Universities.

As reflected in the University's policy statement and Erasmus Extended University Charter, UoC is committed to the aims of increasing EU mobility in Higher Education, supports transparency and the full accreditation of studies and academic degrees. Erasmus student mobility is really high, as more than 1300 of our students have studied abroad and more than 1000 incoming students have enrolled at the UoC. Although the number of outgoing students exceed the incoming one, UoC was selected in 2010 by EU as an [Erasmus Success Story \(pdf\)](#) in recognition of the way the mobility opportunities for staff as well as students have been promoted, together with the involvement of faculty members in multilateral projects for curriculum development, thematic networks and joint degrees.

In order to increase mobility for education and training purposes, attention is focused on the quality of exchange of both students (of all cycles) and staff (academic/non-academic), within inter-institutional agreements, focusing on all subject areas and administrative units. UoC also welcomes visiting academic staff and appreciates their contribution to teaching and curriculum development. Incoming lecturers are of great importance in internationalization for students who do not have the opportunity to study abroad. Finally, UoC through the Erasmus staff training mobility assists its staff to improve its expertise and skills.

The Computer Science Department of UoC is running two joint degrees at a Master's level. One is funded by the Erasmus Mundus Programme and the other by a Greek-French Collaboration Agreement. Three more are under accreditation: one at the Political Science Department, at a Master's level; one at the Department of Primary Education, at a Master's level; and one at the School of Health Sciences, at a Doctorate level. The first two have received funding from the LLP/Erasmus/Multilateral Projects. Participation in more joint degree programmes is envisaged.

Future co-operation in Higher Education should be part of a wider EU strategy to engage with partner

countries worldwide, to promote values and expertise, and support Higher Education in developing countries. UoC has a number of well-established agreements with Universities from EU and partner countries and intends to establish further international networks, to initiate fields of action, as well as to strive for optimization of the international dimension within education, mobility, research and innovation. UoC is committed to intensify worldwide interdisciplinary networks and mobility at all levels, on the basis of academic merit and research potential. Internationalization guarantees scientific and professional skill development of both students and academics. In order to encourage new international links and multilateral projects, UoC supports its staff in setting up cooperative programmes in EU and neighbouring areas. These efforts will continue and be reinforced even more.



2014-2020

With quality as the guiding principle, the UoC strives to focus its international cooperation on deeper and wider partnerships and strategic networks, resting on a stronger connection between student and teacher exchange, education and research.

UoC supports and stimulates concrete international initiatives within the framework of European LLP, interregional programmes, development cooperation and other non-European cooperation. Developments also include focus on strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances, international cooperation and capacity building projects with key stakeholders having excelled in their subjects. Additionally, existing projects will be used as basis for further development. Changes in the curriculum structure and courses in English are encouraged aiming to increase the incoming Erasmus students for education and training.

Additionally, UoC through the DIPR disseminates/announces the University community the appropriate info regarding Erasmus projects. The Institution's policy is to encourage the continuing education of the DIPR administrative staff through their participation in the Erasmus mobility projects. The Institution also encourages the participation of the Academic Erasmus Coordinators in educational seminars related to the Erasmus activities. The particular interest of UoC in the Erasmus projects becomes also evident from the fact that the Institutional Erasmus Coordinator has traditionally been the Rector.

Finally, through a well established Finance Office, UoC provides the appropriate financial management according to the rules of the programmes and the Greek legislation. To further promote international initiatives, next to subsidies, UoC uses also own means, through the Research Committee, to offer additional financial support to outgoing students enhancing social and economic cohesion.

UoC confirms that its participation in "Erasmus for All" is part of its own strategy for modernization. In line with the EU process for the modernization of Universities and the creation of the European Research Area, the UoC ensures to increase the quantity of its graduates at all levels, as well as to enhance the quality of human capital development. The University will continue to provide an environment of research excellence internationally recognized, which will equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations. Excellence at the graduate and postgraduate level is of particular importance within the challenging employment environment associated to the economic crisis in EU.

Moreover, the UoC will use all available means from the Erasmus for All framework to strengthen the links between education, research, innovation and economy with projects involving higher education institutions and other types of organizations from the public or private sector from other partner countries. Transfer of knowhow to partner country institutions is envisaged through the aforementioned programmes, putting UoC in the centre of the modernisation agenda of these Institutions. At University level, through joint degree programmes, new curricula will emerge with obvious impact on the existing curricula.

Mobility through Erasmus is anticipated to advance the professional, social and intercultural skills of the students and staff as well as the students' employability upon graduation. Mobility projects should aim to promote entrepreneurship, creative thinking and innovative approaches, as part of the curriculum for students and as a skill for teachers / researchers, as well as, to reinforce the link between studies and employment needs. In this framework UoC will further explore these opportunities through collaboration with regional and international structures and business actors. Therefore it will continue the promotion of actions designed to stimulate growth of the number of Agreements stipulated between partner Universities and from now on also with enterprises or research units within the eligible European and neighboring countries. To further eliminate obstacles to learning mobility within EU, UoC intends to increase further the courses offered in English in all cycles of studies.

Furthermore, as part of the EURAXESS Service Network, UoC can provide international researchers with all necessary support. UoC has been awarded the "HR Excellence in Research" logo by EU indicating that practices are in line with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Finally, UoC has been selected to participate in the EU-promoted U-multirank performance-based ranking which is focused on five dimensions, namely teaching and learning, research, knowledge transfer, international orientation and regional engagement.