

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

IUSS is a relatively young university founded in 2005 with the aim of providing selected brilliant students with a unique opportunity of intellectual, scientific and personal growth. For this reason, building up and maintaining a strong network of international relationships and cooperation has been among the key targets of the Institute since the very beginning. The strategy behind the choice of the international partners is two-fold. On the one hand high profile EU and non-EU institutions are selected among those who, in a specific area of strategic interest for the Institute, e.g. understanding and managing risk associated to extreme events, have nevertheless similar complementary expertise to allow a holistic treatment of the problem through education, research and training. The geographic location of these non-EU institutions is mainly North America, Asia and Oceania. On the other hand, the university has a strong commitment towards capacity building and development cooperation. In this respect partners institution within developing countries located in the Middle-East, South-America, Africa and Asia are selected based on the optimum matching between IUSS' key strategic areas of expertise and local needs.

Historically mobility activities have involved mainly graduate students, as well as staff, at master and doctoral level. Key objectives of the mobility reflect the two-fold strategy adopted in the choice of the partners, i.e. offering the highest possible education and research opportunities in the strategic area of interest and capacity building in developing countries. The first objective is achieved through either the setting up of collaborative educational and research programmes, such as EMMC and EMJD yielding preferably a joint degree, or the signing of collaboration agreements that allow mutual exchange of staff and students. For the latter, mechanisms allowing the participants to pay tuition fees at the home institution only, as well as to obtain automatic recognition of the acquired training credits are strived for. Furthermore, several programmes run by the Institute have their courses organized in series, i.e. one course with a duration ranging between one and four weeks follows the other. This intentional compact format of the courses allows inviting the best possible lecturers to teach a particular topic in Pavia, which significantly contributes to the continuous timeliness of programme. Capacity building in developing countries is pursued by both hosting students and faculty of the foreign universities in Pavia, actively involving them by means of teaching and research in the cutting-edge activities of the Institute and by sending staff on-site to teach short courses and offer local support of the development of local research and training activities. Nevertheless, in the future, the Institute is committed to explore the mobility of undergraduate students based on the same objectives as for graduate students, further extending the mobility opportunities that this category of students had in the past through the institutional cooperation with the University of Pavia.

The preferred role of the Institute in the framework of collaborative educational and research programmes is that of a proactive Institution which identifies the specific educational and research needs within its strategic key areas, actively recruits the best possible partners and coordinates the consortium. IUSS has a vast experience in the negotiation of the requirements for the delivering of joint degrees, which is the favorite outcome of collaborative programmes with more than one awarding institution.