

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2014 -2020

Poznan University of Life Sciences (PULS) is a multidisciplinary public research university actively engaged in a wide range of EU-funded activities and intends to enhance its involvement in coming years. PULS internationalisation strategy aims to develop, stimulate and promote new cooperation pathways and sustainable networks with other universities and research institutions worldwide. Key objectives are: to support the whole range of international research and technological development activities, to expand the number of programs offering an international experience, to enhance mobility opportunities for students and staff, to internationalise the curriculum in order to reflect its comprehensive European dimension.

A) Our partners are selected based on their high quality educational offer and profile comparable to PLUS. This rule gives us certainty that required learning and research outcomes can be achieved by students and staff. Choosing partners, PULS consider the quality of teaching and research offer in English. We aim to promote long-term and bilateral partnerships based on mutual benefits, both in research and teaching collaboration (for all three cycles). Special attention is paid to the level of transparency and compatibility of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

B) We have not defined geographical priorities for partnerships (although linguistic coverage is taken into account). Our past cooperation focused on European countries. We have already established collaboration with China, Russia and former Russian Republics and Kurdistan. Our main goal for the coming years is to increase the number of partners from developing countries.

C) Our main goals for 2014-2020 are threefold: to increase the number of incoming and outgoing students, to increase the number of partner universities, to increase and improve the partnerships between PULS and enterprises to enable students to gain work experience during their study. Moreover in addition to strengthening the contribution of our University to the process of innovation at the higher education level we would like to increase the level of transparency and compatibility of undergraduate and graduate degrees. We encourage our 1st and 2nd cycle students to spend part of their studies abroad. All PhD candidates are expected to spend some of their degree period abroad for their further international involvement. International activities and collaborations for staff members are integral to the PULS mission and are part of staff personal development programmes. Academic staff mobility initiatives are a strategic goal as they support research connections and contribute towards international sharing of knowledge and expertise. Furthermore, we invite visiting lecturers to teach at PULS, as this enables students who does not go abroad to get familiar with the international dimension of the curriculum. Joint programmes are regarded as a means to intensify existing collaboration and raise the attractiveness of higher education. PULS is one of five consortium partners of the European Master in Erasmus Mundus Joint Programme.

PULS strongly intends to support whole range of international research, technological development activities; to enhance excellence, dynamism, creativity of European research at frontier of knowledge through participation in international projects, training sessions, internships, raising funds for vocational retraining; to reinforce human potential in research and technology by providing improved education, training and better access to research infrastructures; to stimulate intersectoral mobility, life-long training and career development; to encourage competitiveness and innovation level of European enterprises; to meet Lisbon goals - "knowledge triangle" research, education and innovation which is a core factor in European efforts. PULS is open more than ever to the need for considerable improvement of quality of university diplomas and of level of education of young Polish generation, to

the need for modern management, effective competition as regards scientific research but also to the need for strengthening academic ethics and constant concern about the master-student relationship, which must remain foundation of education. PULS mission focuses on giving students top quality education, on enabling scientists to participate in international research projects which aim to optimize use and development of the best research infrastructures in Europe and on providing our higher education. PULS aims to enlarge participation in numerous both European and worldwide initiatives such as EU Framework Programmes, Horizon 2020, Competitiveness Innovation Programme and EU Structural Funds, which are designed for accomplishing horizontal objectives indicated in National Cohesion Strategy. PULS internationalisation policy encourages networking and mobility for students and staff. International partnerships are established with regard to particular needs. Furthermore we pay attention to importance of pedagogical skills of our staff, advancing and training teaching personnel.

Poznan University of Life Sciences identifies with the priority areas where European Union countries need to do more to achieved shared education objectives. PULS for EU-level initiatives will include a multi-dimensional university development in the key areas: increasing the number of graduates and attracting a broader cross-section of society into higher education; improving the quality and relevance of higher education, so curricula meet the needs of individuals, the labour market and the careers of the future, as well as stimulating and rewarding excellence in teaching and research; providing more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance; strengthening the links between education, research and business to promote excellence and innovation; creating an effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence, ensuring that funding and investing in quality education to match labour market needs. PULS for students intends to ensure effective assistance (more places at free of charge studies, new student loans, more need-based grants, no charges for exams, cheaper travel tickets), new possibilities (work after studies, flexible studies, introducing electronic student record books) and more rights (legal security for students, professors for students, obligatory evaluation of academic teachers by students). PULS for scientists supporting talents and faster career (subsidies, supporting grants for early stage researchers, advanced and foreign scientists, PhD graduates and candidates), more opportunities (dynamic personnel policy, limiting nepotism). PULS strategy for the coming decade highlights higher education as a key policy area where collaboration between the European Union and Member States will deliver positive results for jobs and economic development. Authorities and academic staff have stressed that continuing international development is an essential priority within the University's overall strategy, indicating the importance of international collaboration at all levels of the institution. We embrace new activities in the Programme, raising the potential for growth in mobility. We have carried out substantial reforms and changes in all degree programmes, according to the Bologna Declaration and Lisbon Agenda. We aim to improve our courses further, in terms of utility and content. Developing placement is a particular area of interest, with the aim of enabling every student to proceed in their studies with practical skills. By improving our curricula, offering work placements, encouraging international mobility and sustaining our mentoring programme we want to improve the employability of our graduates. We want to promote higher education in business cooperation to create the infrastructure of knowledge transfer.