

ERASMUS declaration concerning the Koblenz University-of-Applied-Sciences policy 2014-2020 (General strategy)

A)

The Koblenz University of Applied Sciences offers courses of study that follow the application-related model of the German universities of applied sciences. It cooperates closely with regional, though internationally orientated companies and institutes. Internationality in lecturing, research and courses of study is a strategic objective of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences.

In order to achieve this goal the following priorities are being set.

Courses of study with international components

Foreign language teaching in various subject areas, intercultural competence training, specialist courses in English, international planning games with partner universities, international intensive programs, summer schools and research projects.

Course-integrated stays abroad

Practical training followed abroad, semesters spent abroad for study purposes, Bachelor-and Master degree tests taken abroad, exchange of lecturers in Europe and worldwide.

International courses of study and twin-track degrees

Realization within the partnerships with the GJU Amman, the University of Technology at Qingdao and as an objective of the intended partnership with the DUT (Durban RSA). Building on the individual willingness and capacity to international cooperation and mobility, the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences is to practice an atmosphere of self-evident collaboration, based on a lived-up international competence. This internationalization is regarded as a means for defining international (European) education standards, which will in the long run help to meet the demand for academically trained young professionals.

Mobility and cross-border cooperation are good practice in Europe. Partnerships are being fostered by means of mutual invitations, shared tuition, research and projects. ECTS is being applied universally and certificate supplements are being implemented. Applications from both students and lecturers with an international background are most welcome.

Periods of study spent abroad will improve the quality and the educational level of a university study and will, after some time, lead to an increase of the international demand for students and graduates with international skills.

The quality of international co-operations takes precedence over an increase of their quantity.

The international character of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences measures itself in three areas:

(a) The international character of the courses as a result of the introduction of integrated international courses of study with twin-track degrees, of periods of study abroad, possible in many courses of study, of lecturing in English in subject areas in which this makes sense, and of the international competence of the lecturing staff.

(b) The improvement of the legal, financial, organizational und cultural general conditions at the university, which apply to international guest scientists, guest students and guest students who are engaged in research.

(c) The professional marketing of the application-related education at the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences.

Selection of the partners

An extension of the cooperation spectrum to cultural circles that haven't been contacted yet can only be initiated in exceptional cases and on the condition that there are sufficient resources. The number of international partnerships will have to be on a level with the capacities of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences.

Partnerships in the particularly popular Anglophone countries are only to be supported if their cooperation has led to fair and stable conditions concerning the students' mobility. This often turned out to be an obstacle in the case of contacts in the USA. Alternatively, the mobility can be furthered if one switches to Anglophone offers in Scandinavia, the Benelux countries, the Baltic countries or in Eastern Europe. It's of interest to the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences to remain attractive to partners in all Anglophone countries. All faculties strive for an improved selection of English courses of study.

Geographic areas

On the **European** level ERASMUS takes up a central position at the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences. An intensive exchange with the neighboring countries is self-evident, and well-established contacts to Scandinavia and southern Europe are being extended.

In **Asia and the Arabian countries** the *identification of „key-universities“* has the highest priority. The furthering of existing contacts with Asian and Arab partners is to be continued, such as the contact with the Qingdao University of Science and Technology und with the German-Jordanian University (GJU) in Amman.

Development-policy related educational goals are being integrated in the strategy of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences by putting the focus on **Asian and African threshold countries** as well. At the moment a co-operation with the Durban University of Technology in South-Africa is being pursued.

Goals and target groups

Target groups are all qualified students, professors and other members of staff, both as incomings and as outgoings. Furthermore, persons with migration backgrounds will be recognized as a special target group.

The recruitment of qualified international students and staff members from branches that do not exist in Germany is to be promoted.

B)

ECTS:

The most important measure to ensure quality is the application of ECTS.

All tests passed by students taking part in an Erasmus program will be recognized.

ECTS information packages of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences are available in partner universities all over the world. Learning agreements are being concluded co-operatively between the universities concerned.

Counselling of the international students:

Outgoings are being counselled in the faculties and by the Languages and International Matters Department. Incomings are being counselled by the International Office and by the Languages and International Matters Department: Personal assistants help with the search for accommodation, German intensive language courses and additional seminars are free of charge.

Support of the foreign lecturers and other staff members:

The Koblenz University of Applied Sciences helps the foreign lecturers and other staff members with their international projects when it comes to financial, linguistic and administrative matters.

Accommodation:

Accommodation of foreign lecturers and students in student residences run by the student union and private agencies by arranging accommodation in communal residences or by organizing house-swapping between incomings and outgoing.

Implementation and continuous improvement:

The continuous improvement of the international character of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences and the implementation of the goals mentioned above are guaranteed by the International Office, the Languages and International Matters Department, the ERASMUS office and by the representatives for international affairs at the faculties. All these departments are being supported by the senate committee for international matters, a platform for the exchange of views and experiences, the planning of coordinated actions and the cultivation of the international profile.

Furthermore, there's the Commission for international matters in which a representative of the university administration, the chairman of the international committee, the ERASMUS representative and the head of the international Office are represented. Their main task is the strategic planning of international affairs.

C)

In accordance with the university agreement, the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences contributes to the improvement of the educational level by providing additional places at the university in order to meet Europe's need for university graduates and scientists. The participation in the ERASMUS program enables the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences to offer the growing student population a valuable university education with international components. At the same time the participation in the ERASMUS program allows a maximum number of students to change from a virtual seminar room environment into the real training environment of an international traineeship and in this way increase the relevance of the study contents for later professional practice.

The Koblenz University of Applied Sciences strives for modernization and quality improvement through mobility and international cooperation. As for some activities, however, the European framework will no longer do, which explains why there are plans for an additional exchange with non-member countries like China, Jordan and Australia.

Priority is given to the internationalization of the following activities:

- Mobility of students („credit mobility“), meaning that students will temporarily spend a period of study or practical training abroad. Considering the fact that the courses of study are highly practice-orientated, the amount of traineeships within Europe should be promoted first („EuropeFirst“).

- Mobility of staff, meaning that there will be an exchange between academic and non-academic staff, is to serve the exchange of knowledge between partner universities first. As the number of staff members is small, partnerships with universities beyond Europe can be particularly used to explore the different approaches of tuition, research and administration and to apply these in a strategic way to the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences as a competitive advantage.
- Virtual mobility, meaning a direct exchange between students from different partner universities in so called „blended learning“ environments and without them having to leave their own university. Joint, cross-border tuition activities (also online) are being strived after.
- Short stays abroad by way of „trial offers“ (summer schools, intensive programs), where students can enjoy the real-life experience of following lectures abroad or of doing a practical training abroad.
- Initiation of twin-track degrees, meaning that the curriculums of the partner universities will have to be synchronized and which can be used as a motor for the modernization of the teaching business.

The participation in the ERASMUS program by way of staff mobility also makes it possible to learn more about the structures of partner universities concerning the connection between research and economy and the individual regions, the realization of experts furthering and the control and finance structures in the fields of activity at the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences (governance).

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