

European Policy Statement

UC Leuven-Limburg (hereafter UCLL) has defined five Strategic Priorities of which 'Internationalisation' is one. UCLL considers internationalisation as a necessary tool to increase the quality of its education and research, not as a goal on its own.

When it comes to our education, UCLL did translate this priority into one overall goal. We expect all students to have acquired international competences (hereafter ICOMs) during their study. The way in which they will acquire these ICOMs will be varied. International mobility, short and long, could be one instrument to promote such ICOMs but it is certainly not the only one. All programmes are required to present their specific approach to inscribe the ICOMs in the curriculum.

Specifically for international mobility, however, we did set some institutional goals in order to keep the attention for 'internationalisation of the curriculum' high on the agenda of our study programmes.

- At least 20% of the alumni of UCLL got a long-term international mobility during their studies;
- 100% of the alumni of UCLL got a short-term international mobility during their studies;
- We have a balanced number of outgoing and incoming exchange students;
- We aspire to have a number of international degree programmes taught in a foreign language in order to create an 'International Class-room'.

The 2014-2020 EU Programme "ErasmusPlus" is thus seen as a core element of our institutional strategy since it provides many opportunities to reach the goals mentioned above.

It goes without saying that equal access and opportunities are provided by ensuring that there is no discrimination based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth disability, age or sexual orientation. We certainly aim to include participants from groups usually under-represented in mobility and we do aim to identify interested students at an early stage.

We welcome students from all participating countries and aim to have an offer for exchange students in each subject area.

Exchange students or degree-seeking students in an international programme have full access to all student services offered at UCLL. We aim to constantly improve our services.

Multiple degrees have been a focus for the institution for over ten years now. UCLL has been a driver of a unique bachelor degree programme in which students get a multiple degree and study in three different countries (www.internationalbachelor.eu). Further multiple degrees have been developed within Belgium.

Staff plays an important role in all of this. We stimulate all members of staff to take up an international mobility every four years.

UCLL did start a policy on international networks and international partners. We aim to have a country-specific focus outside the European Union (thus Partner Countries). This will limit the number of countries, and thus partners, in which we invest energy and time. Our goal is to have more focussed partnerships which should increase the quality of staff and student exchange and enhance the impact of our project cooperation.

There is currently no limit or specific focus on any of the Programme Countries. However, we aim to identify institutions of similar size, ambition, structure and vision with whom to cooperate.

Our institution wants to be engaged in practice-oriented research. Obviously this research should be internationally valid and applicable, and equally, we want to be inspired by, and cooperate with, international partners in this field. ErasmusPlus offers the opportunities to explore a vast number of topics related to our practice-oriented research and this in close combination with education.

A so-called Project Bureau has been developed at UCLL. The Project Bureau supports staff from the initial idea into an application and onto final reporting of the project. The Project Bureau does also provide financial assistance whenever co-funding is needed.

UC Leuven-Limburg is a Flemish consortium of two non-profit organisations UC Leuven (B LEUVEN 18) and UC Limburg (B HASSELT 20).