

Erasmus Policy Statement of the SRH Fernhochschule **(Extract from the proposal for the charter of Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027)**

Erasmus Declaration on Higher Education Policy: Our Strategy

By obtaining the ERASMUS Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), the SRH Fernhochschule is given the opportunity to participate in the mobility support programmes of the ERASMUS+ programme. The ERASMUS+ mobility programmes are particularly important here. The support offered by these programmes enables the SRH Fernhochschule to give its students, teaching staff and administrative staff the opportunity to spend time abroad. This enables students to gain international experience and gain important cultural experience in addition to their academic development as part of their studies. In particular, the development of global citizenship awareness and the promotion of equal opportunities and social cohesion in the European Union and the partner countries are at the forefront. Through the students' stays abroad, realised through study visits or internships, the participating students become familiar with new concepts and methods and gain insight into alternative, innovative approaches. In this way, SRH Fernhochschule also aims to contribute to the further development and promotion of innovation within society. In particular, the realisation of internships as mobility measures for students can promote their innovative ability and creativity beyond their studies. These activities can make a key contribution to the development of participants' entrepreneurial thinking. By participating in the ERASMUS+ programme, students can also acquire skills that may play a subordinate role during their studies, such as intercultural competence and specific language skills. By developing these and other competences, future mismatches between skills demand and supply can be avoided and excellence in student skills development can be achieved. As the average age of students at SRH Fernhochschule is somewhat higher due to its orientation as a part-time distance learning university, participation in the ERASMUS+ programme also makes a valuable contribution to the realisation of lifelong learning and mobility. With the help of the programme, older students, who may have come to higher education via an alternative educational pathway, also have the opportunity to study or do an internship abroad. Furthermore, the ERASMUS+ programme also offers university staff (teachers and administrative staff) the opportunity to realise and benefit from mobility measures. In this way, valuable input and ideas can be exchanged and further developed at the home and partner universities through job shadowing programmes, work observation or professional development at partner universities and institutions abroad. These exchange activities sustainably promote the efficiency and effectiveness of universities and higher education systems and make efficient use of available human and financial resources. The same applies to the exchange of teaching staff. Here too, the quality and efficiency of general and higher education is sustainably supported through the exchange of expertise and methodological knowledge. With its repeated participation in the ERASMUS+ programme, the SRH Fernhochschule can make a valuable contribution to achieving the goals described.

Erasmus Actions of the SRH Fernhochschule

The SRH Fernhochschule is currently focussing primarily on mobilities under Key Action KA1. This includes mobilities with programme countries as well as mobilities with partner countries. In addition to student mobilities, the focus is also on the mobilities of teachers and university staff. The KA1 key action and the corresponding mobilities will continue to be the focus of the SRH Fernhochschule in the future programme generation. The implementation of these activities is the central responsibility of the International Office, which maintains contact with the partner universities and is the central point of contact for students, lecturers and administrative staff interested in mobility. In addition to advising students, the International Office is also responsible for the preparation and follow-up of mobility programmes and is in close contact with the other university departments, such as those responsible for degree programmes, press and public relations work and marketing (topics:

recognition of academic achievements, application for the ERASMUS programme, publication of testimonials etc.). As part of its internationalisation strategy up to 2025, SRH Fernhochschule has determined that, in addition to the realisation and implementation of KA1 mobility programmes, the focus should also be on partnerships between organisations and universities in order to promote exchange and innovative cooperation with international partner universities. Participation in the ERASMUS+ programme will thus provide structural support for the SRH Fernhochschule's internationalisation strategy to establish innovative, thematically and geographically defined networks and develop measures. For example, joint curricula, summer schools and flexible blended learning concepts can be developed. By participating in the funding programme, SRH Fernhochschule can intensify its cooperation with other partner universities and realise an intensive exchange. Accordingly, the exchange of good practice, the development and application of innovative teaching and learning concepts and the promotion of activities for civic engagement and entrepreneurship in an international context can be further expanded.

Effects of Participation in the Erasmus Programme

The SRH Fernhochschule aims to carry out high-quality mobility programmes for students, lecturers and administrative staff as part of its participation in the ERASMUS+ programme. The focus here is on developing the competences, knowledge and skills of the participants. The expansion and improvement of cooperation with international partner institutions, the exchange of innovations and know-how, the internationalisation of universities, the promotion of employability and the development of a cosmopolitan sense of responsibility to strengthen European identity also play important roles. In terms of high-quality higher education, including distance learning, mobility plays a decisive role; exchange and cultural experiences make a decisive contribution to cosmopolitan development. SRH Fernhochschule has set itself the goal that 10% of its graduates will have completed a period of study abroad by 2025. Furthermore, by 2025, 25% of teaching and administrative staff should have spent time abroad (job shadowing, work observation, teaching placements). These quantitative targets reflect the objectives of SRH Fernhochschule's internationalisation strategy. The concrete measurement of these goals is carried out for students on the one hand by documenting their physical mobility and on the other hand by acquiring credit points abroad. The quality of the support provided to mobility participants (students, teaching staff, administrative staff) is monitored in regular feedback meetings and is thus to be sustainably improved. With regard to key action KA2 and the development of partnerships, SRH Fernhochschule aims to internationalise at least 10% of its partnerships with institutions and universities by 2025. The International Office (Partnerships) and the Customer Relations department, which is responsible for all collaborations, and carries out regular monitoring, are responsible for measuring this. Overall, participation in the ERASMUS+ programme should not only support the internationalisation of SRH Fernhochschule, but also accelerate it in the long term.