



Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS): our strategy

In general, by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme, University of Greenland wishes to strengthen and improve our efforts in internationalising our university - in particular with focus on our educational programmes and our research in general.

In doing so, it is our main goal and aim that by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme this will also help us to achieve to strengthen and improve the essentials of our internationalisation strategy, thus benefitting both our students, staff and Greenlandic society at large.

University of Greenland has an internationalisation strategy, which is available online on our website <https://uk.uni.gl/international.aspx>.

Our internationalisation strategy is as follows:

Shaping the Arctic - University of Greenland's internationalisation strategy

University of Greenland educates for both the private and public labour market, and does research and programmes within humanities, social and health science.

University of Greenland highly prioritises cooperation with the outside world, locally as well as internationally.

University of Greenland wishes to bridge the university world with the business community and the public sector - locally as well as internationally - because in a collaboration between the sectors, everyone is contributing strong professionalism and combining new thinking and innovation in a fruitful system.

University of Greenland is an Arctic university that creates knowledge and innovation in a region developing rapidly.

Broadly, deeply and across: University of Greenland is shaping the Arctic through research, education and cooperation.

University of Greenland consequently regards internationalisation as a fundamental part of all our work - both in terms of education and research.

Vision

University of Greenland is strongly committed to contributing to solving the challenges faced in the Arctic through our international focus and competence – in addition to our international cooperation.

By collaborating with international universities and environments, University of Greenland will continue our research activities to address these challenges.

The internationalisation strategy supports University of Greenland's vision that is:

- *internationally recognised for Arctic research, with a cross-disciplinary perspective benefitting society;*
- *acclaimed for the documented results as we educate students for the society of the future in the Arctic and internationally;*
- *an attractive partner for private companies and public authorities, regionally, nationally and internationally.*

As we cooperate with many international partners, University of Greenland strengthens our international capabilities and provides our students and staff with the most attractive international experiences and learning environments.

Actions

In order to ensure the sustainability and continuation of our internationalisation strategy, our main focus is on these three major headlines:

- *Research & Collaboration*
- *Education*
- *Internationalisation at home*

Regarding 'Research & Collaboration'

University of Greenland is committed to strengthening the international dimension in our research - as well as enabling our researchers to strengthen international networks. This will increase the impact of our research, develop new positions of strength and enable existing research areas to deliver results benefitting society - both in the Arctic and internationally.

Regarding 'Education'

University of Greenland's student body has a strong international profile. International experience, intercultural understanding and the ability to analyse and solve complex problems are competences in demand in a globalized world – and all competences our students gain during their education at University of Greenland.

Graduates from University of Greenland will consequently be ready to contribute to solving the challenges faced by the Arctic and the international community at large - and they are able to work in new and collaborative ways in increasingly connected and globalized environments.

Many graduates from University of Greenland have a strong international profile, and they are attractive and ready for the regional, national and international job markets.

Mobility for University of Greenland students is of a high priority - and it is easy, attractive, meriting and appreciated - and all University of Greenland students have the option of going abroad to study or do traineeships during their education. Furthermore, going abroad to study or do traineeships is mandatory for all our master students.

University of Greenland will continue to promote and improve mobility and encourage students to go abroad to gain experience by study exchange, traineeships and international collaboration.

All University of Greenland students are also financially supported by the Greenlandic Government when going abroad.

Regarding 'Internationalisation at home'

University of Greenland is open to the world - and invites international partners to University of Greenland for longer and shorter visits and stays.

In order to accommodate ambitions for internationalisation, University of Greenland will ensure that non-Greenlandic and non-Danish students and staff are able to operate and perform on campus on equal terms with native speakers.

University of Greenland provides professional guidance and support for international students and staff - as well as guest lecturers and guest researchers.

University of Greenland's International Office is the key driver of support in this respect, as it provides professional guidance and support for international students and staff. To strengthen the professional support structure, collaboration with local and national stakeholders and authorities will be further developed.

The above is University of Greenland's internationalisation strategy.

In terms of how University of Greenland intends to implement Erasmus+ after the award of the ECHE, we operate on multiple fronts:

- *Every Friday, our International Office hosts an 'International Café', where we market going abroad to study or to do traineeships to all our students. Here, Erasmus+ and all our Erasmus+ partners are also marketed. Erasmus+ is naturally also marketed to staff.*
- *On a weekly basis, our International Office posts Erasmus+ possibilities on our intranet for both students and staff.*
- *All our students and staff that come back from abroad are invited to do a presentation during our 'International Café' .. in this way, all future students (and staff) have the possibility to hear the experiences from the follow students and staff who have been abroad.*
- *Also, as we are the only university in Greenland, the Greenlandic press is very eager to promote our students (and sometimes staff) when they are or have been abroad - and as such, Erasmus+ has often been mentioned in the Greenlandic press.*

By implementing Erasmus+ - and by being awarded the ECHE, University of Greenland strongly believes that this will enable us even more to achieve our internationalisation strategy, and in particular to improve our students' international profile, their international experience, their intercultural understanding and their ability to analyse and solve complex problems as competences in demand in a globalized world (this fits into our internationalisation strategy as stated above - see in particular the section concerning "Regarding 'Education'").

Also, by implementing Erasmus+ - and by being awarded the ECHE, this will in particular enable University of Greenland to further improve as an international university - and as an international partner - in addition to being an essential part of all our academic work - both in terms of education and research.

Erasmus+ mobility and cooperation are central elements in University of Greenland's internationalisation strategy - and because of this, Erasmus+ is also a central element in achieving our internationalisation strategy.

And: Erasmus+ as a central element in achieving our internationalisation strategy will only be further strengthened and improved in the future, as we will experience a vast increase in our numbers of students and staff going abroad through Erasmus+. This is due to the fact that in the future, all students and staff going abroad to the Nordic countries will go through Erasmus+ (previously, all students and staff going to the Nordic countries have done so through the "Nordlys network" within the Nordic "Nordplus programme" .. this has now changed, so all students and staff going to the Nordic countries will go through Erasmus+).

Being one of the smallest universities in the world, and geographically relatively isolated in relation to the academic world of Europe, University of Greenland has always given very high priority to Erasmus+ mobility of students and staff. Because of this, Erasmus+ mobility and Erasmus+ cooperation are central elements in University of Greenland's internationalisation strategy - and because of this, Erasmus+ is also a central element in achieving our internationalisation strategy.

In conclusion, by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme, University of Greenland is confident that this will enable us to strengthen and improve our efforts in internationalising and modernising our university to become even further internationalised, focussing on our Erasmus+ partners - particularly benefitting our educational programmes and our research, as well as our incoming Erasmus+ guest students and incoming Erasmus+ staff. We are also confident that by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme this will help us to achieve to strengthen and improve the essentials of our internationalisation strategy, as described above.