



UMANRESA
UNIVERSITAT DE VIC
UNIVERSITAT CENTRAL
DE CATALUNYA



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

PIC: 928783052

Organisation ID: E10121852

Erasmus Charter for Higher Education Code: E BARCELO253

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning Mobility:	
The mobility of higher education students and staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among Organisations and Institutions:	
Partnerships for Cooperation and Exchanges of Practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partnerships for Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):	
Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to Policy Development and Cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

<p>Our university – A general view</p> <p>The Fundació Universitària del Bages (FUBages) was established in 1990 as a private foundation with the aim of guaranteeing the provision of a significant range of university studies in the central regions of Catalonia. On 30 January 2014 the FUBages signed a Federation Agreement with the University of Vic, giving rise to the new federative structure identified as University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia (UVic-UCC). Within this new structure, the FUBages holds two faculties on the Manresa campus (UManresa): The Faculty of Health Sciences of Manresa and the Faculty of Social Sciences of Manresa.</p> <p>The UVic-UCC comprises two main campuses (Vic and Manresa) and two sites (Barcelona and Granollers). Its seven faculties provide 36 undergraduate degrees, 15 masters and 9 PhD programmes across a wide range of areas of knowledge, including Biosciences, Communication, Design, Education, Business Studies, Engineering, Sports, Languages and Translation, and Psychology and Health. We have more than 8300 students on campus, taking blended and online courses in official studies.</p> <p>The UVic-UCC currently has 31 research groups and 13 chairs and has international agreements with 277 institutions in 43 countries and it is rapidly expanding its international activity at all levels. Our university has been recognized by the CYD Foundation as the fastest growing Spanish university in terms of international research in the last 5 years. It also holds the 13th position among 73 Spanish universities in terms of international orientation.</p> <p>This university model is dynamic and permeable, with flexible management bodies and a high decision-making capacity. This structure creates synergies in the organisation of course offerings, in the promotion of research and knowledge transfer, and in relationships with the economic and social fabric.</p> <p>Within this structure, the UManresa Professional Campus is a formal non-university, privately-owned educational institution. It was founded in 2015 by the <i>Fundació Universitària del Bages</i> (FUBages) with the aim of complementing</p>

its higher education academic offer with Higher Vocational Training options. A new law has been passed in Spain to explicitly encourage and promote the interaction among all higher education (university and non-university) students. The Professional Campus students coexist with and enjoy the same facilities and services as university students, while they carry out their higher (non-university) vocational training.

Our university sets the student at the centre of the learning process, considering that personal growth in the context of the common European values is the basis for comprehensive and lifelong education.

Erasmus+ actions in the future

The UManresa Professional Campus aims to take part in KA1 mobility actions in order to integrate mobility into its vocational training programmes, by applying and fully participating in KA1 projects for its non-university students and staff, in alignment with a new law that has been passed in Spain to explicitly encourage and promote the interaction among all higher education (university and non-university) students.

FUBages internationalisation strategy

FUBages takes as its own the UVic-UCC internationalisation strategy, which is defined by its Vice-rectorate of International Relations, in coordination with the Vice-rectorate of the Manresa Campus. Our Internationalisation Plan sits on four main pillars, aligned with the main strategy for the institution as a whole: advancing in the internationalisation of the curriculum; developing a diverse global community within our campus; expanding international opportunities for our university community (students and staff) not only through mobility but also at home; implementing global learning outcomes. We are convinced that these four areas are an essential part of our commitment not only to instil international perspectives throughout our research and teaching functions, but also as key drivers to help us shape the ethos and values of our institution for the 21st century.

In this context of strategic institutional commitment to pursue academic excellence through internationalisation, the Erasmus+ Programme is an essential tool not only to foster student and staff mobility, increase research competitiveness and promote initiatives of International Cooperation but specially to induce profound and systemic changes in our institution.

Different strategies will be used to increase all kinds of mobility among students and staff, including physical, online and blended mobility. Embedded mobility within courses and networked programmes will be introduced in existing and new curricula at different stages to ensure opportunities of participation in international experiences to all members of the community, in an equalitarian and inclusive but personalised context. Intercultural and multilingual diversity will meet in these mobility opportunities to specially promote and teach the European values in a transnational environment.

Both the UVic-UCC at an institutional level and the FUBages at campus level will continue to implement a competence-based, student-permit learning system while encouraging staff training to enable them efficiently to perform their tasks in a multilingual, international, and technologically advanced context.

Because internationalisation means diversity, equity, inclusion and of course digitalization, which are strategic issues for our university, we contemplate the Erasmus programme as a crucial tool to foster societal engagement of higher education and empower people by increasing their educational opportunities. Furthermore, international experiences enrich both people and cultures through diversity and promote critical thinking, open-mindedness and creativity, thus driving forward competitiveness and economic growth.

Erasmus key role in FUBages Internationalisation and Modernisation Process

From its foundation, FUBages and UVic-UCC have focused on achieving excellence in Education and Research. In keeping with its institutional policy, our institution has centred on creating international networks and projects to enhance the university's academic quality and prestige. In this context, Erasmus offers a wide range of advantages, creating opportunities to share experiences and explore research, teaching and management synergies. These initiatives boost students, faculty and administration, and services staff exchanges, creating an ideal environment to start up and implement international projects.

One of the key issues of the UVic-UCC strategic vision is the commitment to academic excellence in research, teaching and knowledge transfer. In order to meet with this objective, we know Erasmus will remain more than relevant for our institution amid the changing higher education landscape no matter what developments could be on the horizon.

The possibility of taking part in KA1 actions via a specific EHE for the FUBages will not only help the internationalisation efforts of our institution but also lead to the emergence of new synergies, contributing to strengthen relationships with other international institutions; KA2 and KA3 actions will facilitate the transfer as well as a wider access to technology, resources, and organisations all over the world.

Expected outcomes

The participation of FUBages in the Erasmus+ programme does not only fit within our strategic vision, but it is also a key part of its outreach and progression pathway. The signature of our commitment with the Erasmus+ programme will permit our institution to take a large leap forward towards this comprehensive internationalisation scenario that will allow for the successful participation in a European University consortium in a context of inclusive European Education Area.

We expect to continue increasing our mobility indicators (incoming and outgoing students, and staff) and to boost our internationalisation through the participation and coordination of research, technology transfer and cooperation and innovation projects.

The Erasmus+ Programme at our University is now fully underway, with active participation in the following actions:

Key Action 1: Mobility project for higher education students and staff.

The main objective for the current ECHE is to incorporate internationalisation into all the courses and programmes taught at the UManresa Professional Campus in the form of KA1 mobility actions.

To this end, four specific objectives have been set:

1.1 Organising traineeships for the Professional Campus vocational training students in the area of Business. These traineeships will take place with international business with whom we already have agreements in place in France, Germany and Italy. (The start of traineeship student mobility is planned for academic year 2023-2024.)

1.2 Organising traineeships for the Professional Campus vocational training students in the area of Dental Protheses. These traineeships will take place with international dental laboratories with whom we are already in contact in France and Portugal. (The start of traineeship student mobility is planned for academic year 2023-2024.)

1.3 Organising traineeships for the Professional Campus vocational training students in the area of Education, through school with whom we are already in contact in France and Italy. (The start of traineeship student mobility is planned for academic year 2023-2024.)

1.4 Establishing contact with educational organisations and providing similar programmes to those of the UManresa Professional Campus in order to explore future mobility opportunities for teaching and administration staff. (We aim to initiate these contacts during academic year 2022-2023.)

Key Action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions.

- Many **KA2 Partnerships for innovation** projects are being planned for submission through the new FUBages ECHE and participation in this kind of consortia is highly promoted.
- In the remodeling of the Cooperation and Development strategy of our university, application for **KA2 Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices** will also be specially pursued and applied for.

Key Action 3: Support to policy development and cooperation.

- Networks and policy support measures.

The Vice-rectorate for International Relations and Vice-rectorate for Research and Innovation are in charge of coordinating the internationalisation policy of the UVic-UCC. The International Relations Area, The International Career Service, Office for Research and Transfer Knowledge and the Internationalisation Units at faculty level, are the ones operating with both, local and international community by managing the mobility of students and professors, planning, requesting and managing international projects, strengthening and initiating spaces of cooperation between institutions of higher education and companies, through the signing of international agreements. Also, by creating the structure of international networks.

Within the FUBages context, the Vice-rectorate of Manresa Campus is in charge of coordinating and assuring a full alignment with UVic-UCC strategies and policies. Also, the International Relations Office and the Research and Innovation Office in the Manresa Campus, are the ones that, working in network with their counterparts in Vic, are in charge of the implementation of the strategies of internationalisation and research, assuring high quality during the whole cycle of the projects and initiatives.

As per the implementation of new KA2 Erasmus+ actions, FUBages has the support of the Manresa Campus Research and Innovation Office, which has experience managing a diversity of national and European projects (H2020, ERDF, MINECO) and has the full support from the Financial Department of the institution. Notwithstanding, and due to the federated nature of our institution, we count on the support of the UVic-UCC Office for Research and Transfer Knowledge, which also has vast experience in managing more than 30 European projects (7th FP; H2020; E+ KA2;). In fact, a specific agreement on Research Management signed at a federation level will ensure a smooth coordination and integration of all research and technology transfer activity.

Participation in all these actions will increase and strengthen collaboration with HEIs and other strategic partners such as enterprises, regional authorities, etc. Such cooperation is one of the central elements of our institutional policy and, to this end, we have and will continue to develop cooperation with partners in other European and non-European countries in the framework of our comprehensive internationalisation strategy. As part of this strategy, gender equality, inclusiveness and non-discrimination policies will continue to be reinforced and guaranteed in all mobility and international actions.

All these expected results are completely aligned with our general institutional strategy and, more specifically, our objectives to progress towards a comprehensive internationalisation scenario.

Our project of excellence revolves around benefiting society through a creative, innovative and person-centred education. The UVic-UCC's mission is to ensure through its academic and research prestige, the capability of attracting and forming talented students, professionals and researchers that are able to adapt and respond to the present and future societal needs.

Although during the last decade the FUBages has strongly focused on working in the internationalisation area, today's globalised world calls for additional efforts to guarantee being always updated.

Our target is to continue this progression towards a truly comprehensive internationalisation scenario, where all the community is fully committed to work towards an international European campus context.

In terms of research internationalisation, the UVic-UCC has experienced a huge leap forward in the recent years. Our University has greatly increased the innovation and research activity and also the participation under the KA2 programme since 2015, which, altogether, has led to the recognition of the UVic-UCC as the fastest growing Spanish university in terms of international research in the last 5 years. **This ECHE card entitled to FUBages will now allow our Manresa Campus to lead and coordinate new KA2 projects** and boost further these numbers, specially impacting on our campus and city.

These extremely positive figures have directly induced a spectacular increase in scientific productivity, both in qualitative and quantitative terms, international outreach and overall institutional improvement and prestige.

For the next four years we expect to achieve, at university level, an increase of at least 50% of applications and funded projects, as well as an important increase in all types of mobility (online, physical and blended) and overall internationalisation.

The Erasmus + programme is, without a doubt, a key element to the research internationalisation strategy of UVic-UCC and the former numbers show it very clear. In next four years we envisage to use the programme to put in a European dimension all our main research areas: education and social inclusion, gender and LGBTI studies, health and medicine, sports and human movement, sustainability and rural management, business, humanities and engineering. Specifically, FUBages main research areas are: Education, Experimentation and Learning; Analysis of the locomotor and integumentary system in gait and running; Simulation; Health Economics; Entrepreneurship; Public Health; Chronicity, Human Aging and ICT, and eHealth. All of these in a very close interaction and co-participation with local and international diverse stakeholders. For all these reasons, we expect to double the current participation in Erasmus+ and increasingly become coordinators of more of these projects by 2024.

FUBages expectation is to apply for several projects in the next KA2 call and steadily increase our participation year by year.

At any rate, Internationalisation progress needs to be closely monitored in order to stimulate the slow-progressing areas and take the necessary actions to ensure the right progression towards the expected achievements. For this purpose, we use a diverse arrange of indicators, of both quantitative and qualitative nature to monitor the progress on the KA2 actions that will be managed through the present ECHE.

Quantitative Indicators:

- Number of Erasmus+ projects submitted
 - o As coordinators
 - o As partners
- Number of Erasmus + projects funded
 - o As coordinators
 - o As partners
- Number of International Partnerships
- Number of community members involved
 - o Staff
 - o Students

Qualitative Indicators:

- Dissemination actions

The feedback from these indicators is key for the annual revision of our strategic internationalisation plan and the consequent decision-making policies. At the same time, they are used for public transparency and dissemination, both at an internal and external level.