Erasmus Policy Statement

The Hague Universities of Applied Sciences’ internationalization strategy requires all students to obtain an international experience during their studies, relevant for future employment. This might be done abroad (through studies or an internship with a minimum of 15 ECTS) or in an international classroom (offered in English and minimally 35% of foreign students).

Each academy has researched, the relevant international competencies for their students, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders on the labor market. These competencies, such as international knowledge of the subject, intercultural communicative skills, and building an international network are described in 2012 in the various internationalization plans per academy. The academies have selected instruments to teach the desired skills (i.e. exchange, internship abroad or participating in an international classroom). Based on these tools and desired learning outcomes, partners and geographical areas are determined.

The potential partners are located worldwide. Most however are concentrated in neighboring countries, such as the U.K., Belgium and Germany, the Nordic countries and Central and Eastern European countries.

In addition, each academy has assessed the current skills and knowledge of the teaching staff and incorporated the needs for improvement into the respective academy internationalization plans. Within the academy plans study exchange is the most favored instrument to achieve international competencies. Another important part of the academy plans is staff mobility, as to prepare staff better to deal with different learning cultures in order to enhance the effectiveness of the international classroom.

Internationalization is becoming a compulsory part of all curricula at The Hague University of Applied Sciences. The Hague University enrolls students from a wide variety of Socio-Economic background, including those with a vulnerable background and relative limited financial means. Erasmus funding will contribute to limit the negative effect on enrolment of a compulsory internationalization policy amongst these groups.

The Hague University’s internationalization policy is aimed at providing relevant skills and knowledge to the globalizing economy and labor market of tomorrow. In all fields, employers and labor market institutions were consulted in order to change the curricula to meet these demands. Erasmus is expected to make these curricula, with their compulsory international aspect a possibility. Without Erasmus, the costs would become an obstacle. In addition, internationalization is seen as a necessity to positively influence, inspire and motivate members of staff, through means of staff exchange and contact with foreign partners.

In all curricula, activities related internationalization are compulsory, with the aim to improve the quality of both the education of the student, by obtaining international skills and or knowledge relevant to the projected labor market, and to the quality of the education provided by the institution: having different students from various cultures cooperate, we aim at improving the quality of education.

On top, The Hague University’s number of non-EU students cannot grow without a growth of the “international culture and exchange possibilities as these are crucial in shaping the attractiveness of our institution. For both, The Hague University needs more exchange partners and students.
Erasmus forms the basis of the network of European partnerships The Hague University operates and seeks to expand. Within this network, students and staff are exchanged. However, as a University of Applied Science, The Hague University also has many links with businesses, both SMBs and multinationals. We seek to combine our network in the labor field with our educational partners, for example to promote internships. In addition, THUAS expects the exchange of professional networks within its international partner network to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and applied research with foreign businesses as well.

Internationalization is a central part in the profile of The Hague University, in line with the key policy issues of the Agenda. Without Erasmus, providing body to this strategic choice would be a near impossibility.