

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

SAXIONS STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Saxion Universities of Applied Sciences (further referred to as Saxion) has a long tradition of international education, under the motto *Education for our common future*. Together with Education towards global citizenship as the other main objective the internationalisation goals of Saxion are:

- Saxion considers it a necessity that all students graduating can achieve international working competences. Students are expected, to have an international experience during their training, by doing part of their programme abroad, e.g. an internship, or in international class rooms at home.
- Saxion provides international programmes for students from all over the world with a focus on the culture and politics of Europe, and the Netherlands in particular. Students from our Partner Universities in Europe can join these programmes for a whole or part of their studies. Credits are conform the ECTS.
- Saxion participates in international projects to benefit of development, exchange and transfer of knowledge with institutions from all over Europe and the world. Saxion commits itself to the Life Long Learning support, as staff and student exchange with our partner Universities, contributes to exchange of international exposure, experience and expertise for both Dutch and international students.

Saxion aims to use its participation in the Erasmus programme to:

- Maintain and enhance relations with the current partners for purpose of student and staff mobility
- Identify partner universities in the 'new' European countries
- Develop intensive relations with selected universities for the purpose of Intensive Programmes, with a wide European coverage and a multi-disciplinary focus on European emerging topics
- Elaborate on comparable curricula, modules, other components of teaching, as well as educational support and organisation in international partnerships.

Our website, www.saxion.edu, addresses both potential international, as well as Dutch, students with international study career ambitions. Information is provided about international programmes, the services, as well as a presentation of the different projects Saxion carries out around the world. Through publications and presentations to the students on the benefits of international studies, the enabling role of the Erasmus Programme will be promoted.

The LLL contact point within Saxion, the International Office, will provide information to management and faculty about the EUC and make the principles and requirements easily accessible for reference. The Schools and Departments will further instruct their international liaison officer for further promotion among staff and students.

The Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) will be published and put to use as a promotional tool on the website. The International Office will use the EPS in its support to the Saxion Board of Governors to transform the Saxion educational offer towards a more European and international oriented education.

QUALITY OF ACADEMIC MOBILITY ACTIVITIES

As of 2004 all Saxion programmes are described in accordance with the ECTS. This way, student-learning effort can be communicated to partner institutions. Information on curricula and learning pathways are offered through www.saxion.edu.

Students in our Dutch programmes studying at one of our Partner Universities must abide to the partner agreement about overall recognition of credits. This agreement also include the courses or subjects the students has to complete to be entitled to obtain the credits he/she would otherwise have collected at Saxion.

A network of international liaison officers provide information to prospective students outgoing for study or placement. Periodic meetings with International Office updates their knowledge on the Erasmus programme and gives feedback on exchange experiences. Saxion faculty keep in close contact, offer guidance when needed and supervise students who study abroad with the Life Long Learning programme.

Saxion International Office provides a range of activities, channelled through an all-campus reception services/ front office; arrival logistics, housing, insurance and local introduction programmes. Schools hosting international students have specific introduction programmes at group level, to support both integration and reduction of culture shock.

Staff mobility is an essential part of Saxion's international strategy as achieving international competences of students is facilitated by the staff members. Saxion encourages its staff to visit other universities and participate in their educational activities. The main achievement of this programme is sharing expertise and experiences and establishing cultural awareness and international focus with the staff members. Saxion invites staff from other institutes around the world and actively participate in the educational programmes. Within the international projects, staff members are involved in capacity building, curriculum development or train the trainer's activities.

Quality of student placement activities

To realise the placements Saxion Universities co-operate with a fairly large number of companies /enterprises, organisations and universities all over Europe. The network we have established in this way evolves all the time. Not all the partners offer placements every year, but we keep in steady contact with each other so that when something comes up we can act immediately. Besides this the network is in constant movement for quality purposes, partner are added to the network or severed from it.

Every student is obliged to do one or more placements, ranging from three to six months. The project consists of placements for students with companies, organisations or universities within Europe. Placements and internships are an integral part of the curriculum of higher professional education as Saxion Universities offers it, and is part of Saxion's quality control mechanism and therefore the credits are fully acknowledged.

Arrangements for guidance are made before the start of the training. Students have to report about the progress of the training and their assignment on a regular basis. The teacher will follow this process closely and give his/her assessment regularly and will also involve the supervisor from the organisation in this process.