

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) – University of Paderborn

UPB offers courses in the technical and natural sciences, in cultural sciences (humanities) and in economics. This diverse portfolio leads to the need for diverging internationalisation strategies for the different faculties. UPB started in 2012 a process of strategy revision for each of the 5 faculties of UPB which is still ongoing. On the one hand this is to identify the different interests and convey opportunities for more effective internationalisation on the other hand we are trying to mainstream international aspects at each faculty. Yet, the round table talks on the strategies of the faculties are supposed to lead to a revised strategy of the whole university in 2014.

Internationalisation in cultural sciences and philologies is very much language driven and oriented at exchange of UPB-students with European Universities (esp. in Spain, France, Britain and Scandinavia) and the US. The technical and natural sciences focus on cooperation with emerging markets. The faculty of mechanical engineering and the faculty of natural sciences do heavily engage in recruitment of fulltime BA-students from China and recently intensify the exchange of UPB-MA-Students going to China. UPB is one of the three most important German Universities for Chinese Students (excl. Technical Univ.).

Recruitment from the Indian subcontinent is very important for the English Master Programs of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics. On PhD-Level also Russia and the CIS play an important role for that faculty. Business has its preference in the "motherlands" of economics like the US and Great Britain. Yet, another focal area are Asian economies (China, Korea, Japan), where many of the UPB MA-students go to as exchange students.

UPB experienced partnerships having a strong backbone in academia are much more effective than partnerships which are centrally driven. UPB therefore encourages academic staff to raise their own interest in starting and maintaining partnerships and to feel responsible for these partnerships. The university's board is supporting the acquisition of new partnerships and provides own funds for partner visits. Moreover the continuation of existing partnerships or initiation of new partnerships is an important constituent of most target agreements with new professors. Professors and academic staff is encouraged to participate frequently in international conferences to get to know international partners and to start new cooperations with these.

The objectives and target groups of our international activities are in regard of

- Graduate Seeking Students: receiving MA-students for English master programs, especially China, India, Pakistan.

- Exchange Students: sending BA-students especially to Scandinavia, France, USA and Spain. Receiving MA-students from USA, Turkey, EU.

To ensure sustainability, coherence and visibility of partnerships all partnerships are centrally administered by the International Office. The IO ensures partnerships fit in the overall strategy of the university, it registers new partnerships internally and with the most important national and international databases. Contract management for cooperation agreements is located at the IO, too. Further more faculties and professors are advised by the international office on new partnerships. Mostly new cooperations start at department or even subject level and are restricted to a certain subject area. Yet, the IO supports and facilitates the extension of existing partnerships to faculty, inter-faculty or even university level. This leads to a couple of Premium Partnerships like the one with the Qingdao University in China in mechanical engineering and natural sciences or Tohoku University in Japan for Business or Le Mans France in Cultural Sciences.

The development of double/multiple and joint degrees still has to overcome a couple of legal hurdles. There are several initiatives for double degrees, but only two study programmes are yet ending with a dual degree. We intend to increase this number. To internationalise the curriculum UPB has launched in the previous years a couple of international MA study programmes taught in English. At present there are 6 of these programmes in place with over 90% attended by foreign students. We regard this as a good starting point for the development of dual or joint degree programs. Yet we do already have a Dual Degree with Illinois State University (USA), one with Kairo (Egypt), and with the Universite du Maine in le Mans (France).

European Projects are planned and executed in close cooperation between the IO and UPB's EU-office. Either the EU Office or the IO inform staff on new projects, e.g. by means of newsletters, website or personal consultation. UPB largely participates in TEMPUS, Leonardo and other LLP-Projects and is a well known Coordinator for such projects. Initiation of such projects is largely driven by professors and academic staff. Professors and staff is supported in writing the proposals, setting up the budget, on operational level and execution of the project. Usually International Cooperation Projects funded under the LLP, TEMPUS or other EU-Programmes are administered at the EU-Office. If the project is largely based on mobility the IO is involved. Especially in case the project is based on Erasmus Mobility the project is taken care of by the Erasmus Coordinator.

Currently we are participating in 6 ICT-related EU-LLP-Projects, among those one coordinated in Paderborn. As a university with a stronghold in the technical sciences and information technology cooperation with business is especially important. UPB's career service makes use of the SMP-facility in ERASMUS to foster the involvement of employers. It also has taken part in the "Erasmus for Entrepreneurs" programme. Two of our four TEMPUS-Projects (coordinated at UPB) are strongly labour market oriented. With the participation in presently two Leonardo projects we directly try to influence vocational training by means of EU-funding. In future we want to make more use of the staff mobility measures of the EU and the internationalisation of research staff. To get more foreign students into the local job market we are at present in discussions with the local government.

While most Universities in North Rhine Westfalia have imposed stiff restrictions on admission, UPB has followed a policy of "open doors". Student numbers at UPB have evolved from 13.500 in 2004 to 18.500 in 2013. We expect more than 20.000 students to study at UPB in 2014. UPB regularly engages in information campaigns for school leavers and especially fosters uptake of young women (e.g. girls days) to increase the attainment of female students in the technical faculties.

UPB claims to be the "University of Information Society". UPB is the "University of Information Society". The focus on IT can be found in each and every faculty, E-Learning in education or business, digitalisation in philologies, interdisciplinary courses like business informatics and computational engineering etc. Hence we exploit the transformational benefits of ICT and other new technologies in a very comprehensive way.

Despite its technical profile UPB's number of female researchers is far above average of most German universities. With a share of 25% female professors UPB is the University with the highest percentage of female professors in the federal state of North Rhine Westfalia and among the top universities in Germany. The intense participation of UPB in EU-programmes has largely contributed to this development. Additionally UPB was in 2005 among the first German universities receiving the audit for family friendly universities.

UPB is fully committed to the 2020 goals of the EHEA. Within the last 10 years we have almost doubled numbers of outgoing students to now 9% in one admission cohort. We expect to double absolute figures of outgoings by 2020. On the incoming side we do have nearly 10% of foreign incoming students and hope to substantially increase this figure by 2020.

The Erasmus Program is a very important corner stone of the past und future development of international mobility at UPB providing strong incentives for our students to go abroad.

Linking higher education, research and business is one of the governing principles of UPB's board. UPB is a driving partner in the cluster of excellence "It's OWL - Intelligent Technical Systems" with a total of 174 partners from local industry and a total of 40 Mio. € of funding (c.f. <http://www.its-owl.de/>). Also in other areas UPB engages in the systematic involvement of higher education in the development of integrated local development plans. Yet also EU-funding plays an important role.

UPB has participated in more than 40 FP7-projects and more than 20 LLP- and TEMPUS Projects in the current funding period (since 2007). Since the early 1990-ies it has its own EU-office fostering such activities on EU-level.

Third Party funding accounts for almost a quarter of the total UPB's budget and is extraordinary high compared to other German Universities. Funding is coming from local, regional and nota bene EU sources, but also to a large extend from business and NGOs.