



The University of Bayreuth's ERASMUS Policy Statement

Since its founding in 1975, the University of Bayreuth has established itself as a permanent fixture on the German university landscape; it owes its reputation to outstanding, forward-looking research and teaching. The University's international outlook and interdisciplinary approach have always played a central role in its mission. In order to prepare itself for the future and make itself more competitive, the University recently extended and made some additions to its Structural & Developmental Planning 2020+ (StEP 2020+), resulting in "Structural & Developmental Planning 2025". The University Governing Board considers Structural & Developmental Planning to be a major strategic instrument to ensure the retention of existing structures that are working well and to carry out necessary reorganization and trend-setting realignment in competition with other universities. The University of Bayreuth's primary internationalization objective is to increase the attractiveness of research and teaching opportunities for international target groups. In this connection, it seeks the best-suited international partners in research and teaching for the focus areas and departments in order to improve international visibility. In particular, this is to be achieved by way of the following operational objectives:

- increasing credit mobility among students and mobility among scholars
- establishing and expanding international research networks
- professionalizing service processes
- expanding the communication culture internally and externally

At a central level, The University's Vice President for International Affairs & Equal Opportunity pursues internationalization in a strategically structured way that is aligned with Structural & Developmental Planning, thus guaranteeing that quality criteria are observed. The Bologna Process has been fully implemented at the University of Bayreuth, and all degree programmes other than the state examination programmes have been converted to bachelor's and master's programmes. In addition, progress has been made towards bi-national and multi-national dual degree programmes, as can be seen in the joint master's programmes in African Studies with the Universities of Porto and Bordeaux. The German—Spanish dual degree programme in Law (LL.B.) with Pablo de Olavide University in Seville is already being used by students from Spain and Bayreuth. The introduction of new English-taught programmes in the natural sciences, materials science, engineering, the humanities, and social sciences has continued steadily since the winter term of 2016/17. Bi-national doctorates are also increasingly in demand and are part of the focus of our cooperation with partners in Europe and beyond.

Since the beginnings of the ERASMUS programme, the University of Bayreuth has managed to extend and strategically develop its relationships to higher education institutions in the geographic area covered by ERASMUS; it now has 198 partner institutions (as of 02/2018). The University offers around 250 students per year the opportunity to study or carry out an internship abroad. As part of its continuous evaluation of cooperation, an additional strategic focus for collaboration has been planned that will fit in with the teaching and research priorities of the University of Bayreuth. The



ERASMUS programme is a great opportunity for the University of Bayreuth to become acquainted with the teaching, research, and administration of other European higher education systems, leading to qualitative improvements in European education. The Language Centre offers instruction in 21 different languages. English courses are organized specifically for administrative staff, and English-taught training courses are offered in the scope of internationalization.

Equal opportunity means quality for everyone at the University of Bayreuth. The Women's Representative has been supporting the University Governing Board with the implementation of gender equality for more than 25 years. During this time, opportunities and projects were created which promote a culture of gender equality in research, education, and professional life at the University of Bayreuth. In this context, the University of Bayreuth promotes gender equality in research, teaching, and education, and is increasing the proportion of women in leadership positions. Its equal opportunity policies pursue the objective of creating a higher education culture of gender equality. Indeed, equal opportunity is also a strategic responsibility of every member of the University.

The ERASMUS+ Charter, which contains information on rights and responsibilities in the scope of international mobility, is available online and is also sent to every exchange student by e-mail. Students provide their signatures confirming that they have read and understood the charter.

The University of Bayreuth offers intensive, professional advising for international students, from admission to leaving the University, in the form of a one-stop shop system for Welcome and Alumni Services. The International Office acts as a central hub for inbound and outbound students: this includes organizing the arrival of international students (with shuttle bus and key service), measures to help them get acclimated to their studies and the campus, preparatory tutorials, measures during the academic year, and networking activities (alumni and partners).

Students have the opportunity to attend language courses (German as a Foreign Language, basic and intermediate levels), and they receive help organizing their studies in preparatory tutorials with small groups and a mentor. Orientation week is followed by opportunities with tutors in the relevant subject areas and in writing workshops during the academic year to learn more about academic culture in Germany and about using the German language in academic writing. An extensive programme for students during the academic year is offered as an additional social step to promote intercultural sensitization and networking among students on campus and with locals in cooperation with the Local Erasmus Initiative "ISN Bayreuth" (member of ESN Germany), funded by the DAAD. This includes integrative measures, excursions, talks, film nights, cultural nights, regulars' tables for various languages (in cooperation with the Language Centre), literature events, museum tours, and much more. ISN Bayreuth and the International Office also work together to offer a buddy programme, and there are many programmes to support diversity on campus, such as opportunities tailored to refugees.



A broad spectrum of advising services is available for regularly enrolled students who are planning to go abroad in the scope of ERASMUS. Advising for students includes one-on-one and group advising along with information sessions on going abroad and internal application requirements in line with Erasmus+ SMS and SMP. The information sessions are organized and carried out by the International Office in cooperation with the various faculties at the University of Bayreuth. Orientation events are offered for newcomers in cooperation with the University of Bayreuth's Student Advising Office. Special information sessions have also been planned for selected students in order to inform them about concrete funding requirements as well as the rights and responsibilities of ERASMUS students. The "Homecoming Meeting" organized each May is an opportunity to meet former exchange students and gather information based on their experiences. The coordinators at our various faculties would be happy to answer any questions you may have concerning transferring credits earned abroad. In addition, the International Office organizes an annual "International Day" event at the start of the winter term, providing central information as well as opportunities for students to network. In 2017, the University celebrated "30 Years of Erasmus" as part of its International Day festivities (<https://eu.daad.de/service/veranstaltungen/2017/de/53049-international-day-universitaet-bayreuth/>).