
ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM) joined the Erasmus Programme in the academic year 1998/1999 as three independent schools: the University of Agriculture and Technology, Higher Pedagogical School and Warmian Theological Institute. After the merger, in 1999, as the largest academic institution in North-Eastern Poland it applied as the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn.

Therefore, the UWM in Olsztyn is a young university, which is developing dynamically, adapting to changes in the higher education system. Currently, the University has the right to confer the academic degree of doctor habilitated in 7 areas and 15 disciplines and the degree of doctor in 8 areas and 20 disciplines.

UWM constantly develops and updates research programmes and curricula content, increasing the level of internationalization and the interdisciplinary character of all scientific disciplines and fields. It actively participates in national and international programmes, as well as, scientific and didactic undertakings to strengthen its relationships with the academic centres both in the European Union and the World. Good access to knowledge, high quality education and high living conditions in dormitories have been twice appreciated by the Student Parliament of the Republic of Poland awarding to UWM the title of a student-friendly university.

UWM has for years cooperated with many business enterprises, arranging training placements for students and staff. By participating in the Programme at the three levels: student mobility, academic staff mobility and administrative staff mobility, our students and employees have a chance to learn practical elements of business and to exchange innovative solutions between the University and enterprises.

The region of the Warmia and Mazury is the homeland of a number of nationalities: German, Russian, Belarusian and Lithuanian. Society of the City and also University is a mixture of people, ideas, cultures, religions and is opened for all students from the Europe and the World.

Ones of the strategic goals of the UWM are to implement and observe high standards of education, suited to the needs of society, taking into special account the region of Warmia and Mazury and to allow the University to pursue its educational and research activities on an international scale. In order to implement international cooperation projects in teaching and training, according to the high demands of the Programme, UWM will take intensive pro-quality actions, which involve: developing the principles and criteria for evaluation and improving the effectiveness of the Internal System of Education Quality Assurance, supporting education quality, improving the quality of the teaching process by: pursuing excellence in teaching competence by the academic teachers, implementation of international standards in terms of the teaching quality as well as of forms and innovative methods of education (problem-solving education, e-learning), enhancing the quality of foreign language

teaching, improvement of the teaching process management, for example, by computerisation of different actions related to the course of studies (e.g. e-indeks [electronic course credit book], electronic ECTS information catalogue), popularisation of UWM in international circles of science, education and art, creating the image of UWM as a modern, thriving university, with a high level of education and supporting entrepreneurship and the national economy, creating and consolidating the opinions about the University as an excellent academic centre. In order to properly organize international cooperation projects in teaching and training, UWM will set up the selection of mobile staff and students in a fair, transparent, coherent and document way. All the individuals and groups will be treated equally, and for those with disabilities UWM will provide an appropriate assistance. Students' participation in the Programme projects will be confirmed by suitable certificate with the ECTS credits and will be recorded in the Diploma Supplement. The knowledgeable staff of the University, for many years involved in the Erasmus Programme, will be assigned to support projects. All the activities in projects' realization will be monitored and reported. Information about projects will be published at the University media (newspapers, website).

Participation in the Erasmus Programme is in line with the strategy of the UWM in Olsztyn, as it will enable the continuation of the University's development path in regards to European standards. The Programme enables the mobility of research and teaching staff, who publish in top-ranking journals and actively participate in international projects, while the opportunity for student mobility contributes to an increase in the number of foreign students in various fields and levels of education. Participation in the Programme provides an opportunity to complete part of the study programme and internships in foreign centres.

The UWM belongs to the European areas of education and all activities are in line with European Union policies. The involvement of all faculties and scientific units of the UWM, which is diversified in view of the nature of the University's activities, will enable the achievement of the University's development objectives through the use of the tools provided by the Erasmus programme. The growth of the educational and cultural potential forms the basis for the driving force of the economy, and participation in the programme provides an opportunity to prepare future graduates to acquire skills at the European, and even global level. What is important for universities is social cohesion, which is created through relations between the partners of participating universities and building a European identity at the level of both students and researchers.

The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn is planning to participate in actions 1, 2 and 3, with the focus on KA1. Participation in these activities will enable the achievement of the objectives set by the university, which refer to strengthening international recognition and increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of the university on the foreign educational market. The mobility initiatives, especially those implemented under the KA1 measure, will help to improve the teaching skills of academic teachers. Students from such fields of study as: veterinary medicine, medicine, biotechnology, food science and agriculture, with a large specialization in activities, will develop their skills within the framework of inter-institutional practical training. Many students will have the opportunity to

complete a semester or two in EU units with a strict specialisation, which will help them to develop their practical skills.

The Erasmus Programme will contribute to increasing the mobility of students and staff of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. The primary value for the UWM is the high level of student education, and the entity attaches great importance to the credit thresholds related to ECTS credits earned in one or two semesters. Statistical analyses relating to the use of the student and staff potential in future work will be carried out on a regular basis, in six-month periods. In addition, many quantitative and qualitative indicators will be included in the interim and final reports provided to the National Agency. The ultimate aim will be to involve all UWM departments even more at the highest possible level to increase the number of mobility activities by a minimum of 2% per year from each unit in the years to come. Moreover, the University staff involved in the implementation of projects under the Erasmus Programme will create and manage discussion forums to be joined by the former and current Programme Beneficiaries. The exchange of experience on the forum will provide for even better implementation of projects as a result of reporting problems.