

In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

## 1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

### 1.1 ERASMUS ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN YOUR EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

#### Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

#### Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

#### Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

### 1.2 ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS): YOUR STRATEGY

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the

goal of building a European Education Area<sup>1</sup> and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

Internationalisation plays a central role in the Strategic Institutional Plan of the University of Cordoba (<https://www.uco.es/transparencia/plan-estrategico>). It is undoubtedly an essential tool for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to deliver high-quality teaching and research, thereby helping to improve the institution's indicators of efficiency, excellence and competitiveness, at the regional, national and global level.

The University of Cordoba (UCO) has approved for period 2020-2027 a proactive strategy based on an inclusive conception of internationalisation in higher education, which aims at:

- 1) increasing the attractiveness of Cordoba and its university;
- 2) complementing training of highly qualified students and staff;
- 3) strengthening and expanding the knowledge and skills demanded in a globalised society;
- 4) fostering the generation and transfer of knowledge;
- 5) contributing to increase the competitiveness of our university in teaching, research, innovation and transfer;
- 6) developing and enhancing transversal skills (intercultural and language competences, digital skills, entrepreneurship) and strategies;
- 7) establishing, reinforcing and maintaining reliable and with great potential, academic and cooperation relationships with partner universities.

The International Strategy of the UCO takes into consideration the features highlighted by the Erasmus+ Programme:

- recognition and validation of skills and qualifications;
- multilingualism;
- international dimension;
- equity and inclusion;
- protection and safety of participants;
- open access to educational materials;
- dissemination of project results.

In the framework of the Erasmus Programme 2021-2027 the UCO intends to implement activities that ensure a significant impact towards internationalisation and modernisation. It aims at establishing partnerships for teaching and research collaboration with prestigious universities and research centres abroad, to provide high-quality education in accordance to the European Higher Education Area, as well as to contribute to the society demands for highly skilled, social engaged people according to the renewed EU agenda for Higher Education.

To achieve these goals, the UCO will try to eliminate obstacles that hinder the recognition of credits obtained abroad, in order to reach the maximum complementarity between different educational systems, as well as to improve its own financial and human resources for internationalisation. With this aim, the role of its International Relations Office (IRO) has been strengthened and an International Project Office (IPO) has been created.

Internationalisation will help the UCO to move towards a progressive transformation based on three pillars:

- 1) quality training to increase the competitiveness of its students and staff;
- 2) adequate financing for the implementation of projects to implement pillar 1;
- 3) transversal internationalisation, affecting all activity areas of the university.

Transversal internationalisation at the UCO will focus on 6 areas of action, which are complemented by the principle of development cooperation:

1. Support to research projects:
  - The 'HR Excellence in Research Award' obtained by the UCO as the basis for its commitment with excellence;
  - Recruitment of international talent (temporary or permanent);
  - New International Project Office (IPO) to support researchers in the elaboration and implementation of international projects;
2. Participation in teaching and academic initiatives:
  - EMJMD projects;
  - Participation in a European University Consortium;
  - Participation in Strategic Partnerships, Capacity Building in Higher Education or Jean Monnet projects;
  - Participation in several relevant international networks.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)

3. Students and staff mobility:

- Consolidation and improvement of existing mobility programs;
- Participation in international study abroad fairs: Study in Spain, EAIE, APAIE, NAFSA, IUNC;
- Approval of an annual National and International Mobility Plan.

4. Training:

- Improved recruitment of international students;
- Reinforcement of Degrees and courses in English (Multilingualism Plan);
- Permanent training of administrative staff in internationalisation and language competences;
- Recruitment or collaboration of professionals from the business sector;
- Collaborations with institutions providing intercultural and linguistic competences for mobility participants;
- Wider online training offer;
- Improved procedures for receiving and welcoming international students;
- Double Master's degrees with Italy, France, Germany and Morocco;
- Search for prestigious partners for the joint doctoral programmes;
- Specific programs for experts' qualification;
- Basis for the implementation of internationalisation at home.

5. University life:

- Participation and projection of the UCO students at international level in sport and cultural activities.

6. Visibility:

- Plan for the dissemination of projects' results;
- HR Award Website;
- Networks for the international dissemination of UCO postgraduate offer (Carolina Foundation, AUIP, Women for Africa, Wao Foundation, Mnemosine Foundation and UNPHU).

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

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In accordance with the objectives and areas of action outlined by the UCO Internationalisation Strategy, activities will be addressed to:

1. Fostering student mobility, so that a study period abroad becomes the norm at the UCO.
2. Supporting student mobility and projects aimed at digital skills and entrepreneurship.
3. Supporting mobility of participants with special needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds.
4. Fostering staff mobility, specially focusing on destinations of international prestige, as well as the temporary or permanent recruitment of teachers with international profile.
5. Promoting multilingualism among students, so that knowing two languages in addition to the mother tongue becomes standard.
6. Supporting the acquisition of language skills of UCO human resources.
7. Reinforcing special itineraries, internship programmes and double degrees, given in a foreign language (English).
8. Improving support services for incoming international students, teachers and researchers.
9. Offering specific training for foreign students, related to Spanish culture, language and history, to contribute to the knowledge of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity.
10. Developing virtual training courses and incorporating them to MOOCs platforms, to facilitate access to education.
11. Ensuring the adequate protection of mobility participants.
12. Increasing the number of collaboration agreements and partnerships, promoting collaboration with institutions that facilitate intercultural and linguistic links among students.
13. Designing a specific platform with key international indicators.
14. Creating an institutional map identifying the international competitiveness of the different fields of study and research groups.
15. Increasing the presence of the UCO on study-abroad platforms and the visibility of UCO international-oriented academic offer.
16. Developing an integrated communication plan focusing on the dissemination of projects results.

Participation in international research projects is a priority within the Internationalisation Strategy of the University of Córdoba. For this reason, the UCO has nominated a Rector's Delegate for International Projection and created an International Projects Office (IPO) and an International Projection Committee, who oversees and decides on the adequacy of actions to the university policy. The IPO counts with staff specialized in attracting funds and managing European and non-European projects. Permanent support is given to researchers at all the stages of the project: previous information, partners search, preparation of proposals, and management of granted projects.

Geographically, targeted areas of the UCO International Strategy are in line with the Erasmus Programme and its international dimension:

- 1) Europe, strengthening the existing links, and creating new ones, with HEIs in programme and partner countries neighbouring the EU (Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, South Mediterranean countries and Russia).

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- 2) Latin America countries, for their cultural and linguistic links with Spain, as well as for the necessary cooperation that must guide the work of the public administrations.
- 3) Asia, in particular Central and East Asian countries.
- 4) Africa, countries in East Africa for CBHE, cooperation for development project and student recruitment.
- 5) North America, which together with Europe, are areas targeted by different actions of the UCO institutional strategy.

The selection of partners abroad is carried out at the request of the Dean's team of a Faculty or School, or through the Rector's Office, in their search for strategic and reliable partners. Committee for Mobility Programmes monitors the international inter-institutional agreements before they are approved by the University Board of Governors and signed by the Rector.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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The participation of the University of Cordoba within the Erasmus+ Programme is intended to reach the following targets:

1. Implementation of Erasmus Without Paper.
2. Removal of any material, socio-cultural, curricular, administrative or economic barriers that may hinder the international dimension of the University of Córdoba.
3. Inclusion of participants with disabilities, special educational needs, or from disadvantaged socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.
4. Consolidation and expanding of external funding for granting participants from developing countries or economies in transition.
5. Strengthening the internationalisation of Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral study programmes, encouraging the academic offer given in a foreign language.
6. Promoting the internationalisation of the students and staff curriculum with multicultural and language competences, through mobility, blended mobility or internationalisation at home. Awareness-raising campaigns and recognition of quality and excellence mobility experiences.
7. Supporting research groups to ensure quality research and to encourage mobility of new doctorates for training purposes.
8. Improving information on international opportunities for traineeships and professional insertion in foreign companies and universities.
9. Reinforcing support services for incoming students and foreign visitors.
10. Developing specific programmes, by qualifications and/or Centres, for the recruitment of incoming studies from strategic geographical areas.

The different actions of the Erasmus+ Programme are expected to impact on the maximum number of members of the academic community:

- a) First cycle students: Undergraduates are expected to participate in Erasmus mobility for studies/traineeships (SMS/SMP) to institutions in programme (KA103) or partner countries (KA107).
- b) Second and third cycle students: Students at Master or PhD levels are to take part in Erasmus mobility for studies/traineeships (SMS/SMP) in programme (KA103) or partner countries (KA107), as well as in EMJMD study programmes.
- c) Academic staff: Erasmus mobility for teaching or training (STA/STT); participation in KA2 projects (Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances, CBHE), EMJMD and Jean Monnet actions.
- d) Administrative staff: Erasmus mobility for training (STT); participation in KA2 projects (Strategic Partnerships, CBHE).
- e) Research staff: Erasmus mobility for training (STT); participation in KA2 projects (Strategic Partnerships, CBHE).

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As for quantitate mobility targets, the UCO intends to reach by 2027 the levels which are common at the EU, Spain and Andalusia, i.e. 15%-20% of students with a mobility experience for studies or traineeships abroad and around 10% of academic or administrative staff with international experience.

A specific platform will be designed by the University of Cordoba to monitor its international activity. Indicators to be used should be:

- Quantitative and qualitative (number of/ percentage/ degree of satisfaction);
- Related to the different target groups (students for studies/traineeships, per study cycle, per genre; staff for teaching/training, per genre);
- Related to Erasmus activities under the different actions (KA1 mobility and EMJMD, KA2 and JM projects).

Key indicators annually required by the regional administration (Junta de Andalucía) will be included, i.e.:

- % Outgoing mobility students
- % Outgoing academic staff participants
- % Outgoing administrative staff participants
- % Incoming mobility students
- % Incoming academic staff participants
- % Incoming administrative staff participants
- % Foreign students
- Number of joint or double Degrees (Bachelor or Master)
- % Co-joint PhD Thesis
- % PhD Thesis with international mention
- Amount of funds awarded for international collaboration (year)
- Number of international co-joint publications.