



Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020 Application Form Call: 2014

Note: The data of this application form will be used by the European Commission/ Executive Agency EACEA and National Agencies for evaluation and monitoring

Program	The 2014-2020 EU programme for education, training, youth and sport proposed by the European Commission on 23 November 2011 (hereafter the Programme)*
Action	Erasmus Charter for Higher Education
Call	2014
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Application language	EN
Correspondence Language	EN

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Applicant's previous EUC number (if applicable):

256890-IC-1-2010-1-LV-ERASMUS-EUCX-1

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy) section D of this application form - original language (official EU languages): EN

If the original language is not English, French or German, the Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) should also be provided in one of those three languages.

Erasmus Policy Statement translation language (if applicable): -

D

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Alberta College is a private higher education institution offering first level professional study programs (short cycle). The College's mission is to develop socially active, educated and responsible students by providing them excellent education in the spheres of business, finance, marketing, public relations, information technologies, tourism, event management, law and game development.

The main criteria choosing partners are:

- partner reputation and quality of offered study programs by HEI;
- study courses in English;
- developed scientific and research work including creative activities;
- common qualification levels (short-cycle programs and BA programs), fields of study programs.

The main partners are:

- HEI, mostly colleges which has both the same qualification level and specialization. Same level helps to find common projects and study courses for mobility. For future, College would like to cooperate also with Universities for scientific work development and experience;
- Enterprises with aim to cooperate for placement and for practical trainings both for students and staff. Main cooperation fields with Latvian enterprises are placement, guest lectures and masterclasses, research. The College plan to develop the same cooperation with enterprises abroad.

The most important objectives are:

- to attract foreign lecturers and students to exchange experience and information about different study fields, basically linked with fields offered in College;
- to develop cooperation with foreign HEI and enterprises for scientific work and research;
- to develop cooperation with enterprises for training and placements both for students and lecturers;
- to expand knowledge both for students and lecturers;
- to expand knowledge about different cultures and improve foreign language skills.

Target groups of mobility are:

- students, who have successfully completed the 1st year from all study programs in College;
- all lecturers and staff members. Emphasis within staff mobility will be placed on the study program directors, to promote the program relevance and modernization;
- incoming students from different study fields relevant to offered fields in The College;
- incoming lecturers and staff members.

To reached aim mentioned above, following activities are set :

-Continuing the successful process of partners search and bargaining, Alberta College will expand geographical area of partners. For students study mobility priority are determined countries with similar education system- Lithuania, Denmark, Netherlands, and Bulgaria as well as Baltic Sea region countries Estonia, Sweden, Norway, and Finland. No priorities determined for placement mobility, as for students important are all kind of international experience. For lecturers and staff there is no specific regions determined as priorities as the lecturer work specificity requires exploring commonalities and differences both in educations as well as in culture;

-Starting from academic year 2013. /2014. The College will provide courses for international students taught in English, thereby increasing the scope for international cooperation (new partners etc.), thus opening up more opportunities to the students and staff from The College. These courses will provide for short-cycle and first cycle students;

-To develop supporting services of Erasmus activities: open web-page "International Alberta College" which will be regularly updated with the newest information both for outgoing and incoming students, staff; annual Erasmus Information days organization, coordinator's special office hours;

-To promote the study program directors and staff's role in the implementation process of Erasmus new program in the College. This aspect is to ensure that all parties involved would be informed, which in turn will ensure a successful recognition process after mobility period.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

2011./2012. academic year The College hosted Erasmus Intensive programme "Innovative management methods in Social Sciences" bringing together students and lecturers from 3 Baltic countries- Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia. Alberta College was the first from colleges in Latvia, who realized Erasmus IP.

For next period The College plans to realize new projects with partners, who already have shown themselves as reliable partners and will expand number of partners involved as well as will expand geographical location of partners, involving partners from Baltic Sea region- Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Poland etc.

Project areas to be covered will be closely linked to study programs in college, with an emphasis on new programs- law and game development. An important factor in process of topic choosing will be the partners involved in, current issues, problems in region.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Implementing Erasmus program Alberta College in all activities undertakes to contribute to the European Union's modernization and internationalization agenda. All 5 priorities are included in objectives set above.

-Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

Invaluable role to provide well educated graduates is experience what they get through international activities, what increase their quality of knowledge, complex communication skills and improves their motivation to continue a studies on the next level.

-Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

Lecturers are one of the cornerstones of improving the quality of higher education. Only socially active and willing to develop (and do it) lecturer can ensure the highest level of teaching. Teaching mobility helps to lecturers update CV with valuable records, learn new study methods. From this process will benefit not only foreign students but also students of Alberta College as newest methods and information lecturer shares with them. Mobility exchange also improves lecturer's foreign language skills, what increase their competitiveness. Only proficient lecturer, who is using the innovative teaching methods, increases the quality of students' knowledge. The modernisation of Europe's higher education depends on the competence and motivation of teachers and researchers what ensures also Erasmus program.

-Strengthen quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

Developing cooperation for mobility, participants from Alberta College will gain the practical knowledge and experience what employers require from graduates. College will promote comprehension in students that mobility will help individuals increase their professional, social and intercultural skills and employability, increasing total number of mobilities.

-Linking higher education research and business for excellence and regional development

One of priorities of Alberta College within new program will be cooperation with enterprises (staff training, mobility), what will help to integrate gained experience, research results and innovative practice into the educational offer. As well as organising international projects, it will allow develop cooperation network, to generate new ideas that can be presented to the enterprises. Usually as main topic for projects are chosen actual problem or question of region.

-Improving governance and funding

It is chance of staff members to travel and visit cooperation partners. Experience exchange visits helps to discover new methods, ideas to improve day to day activities and improve quality of offered administrative procedures to improve governance of international activities. Evidence of the effectiveness of the exchange visits is the newest project in Alberta College- e-learning. The Alberta College is the first HEI, who offer e-learning studies with online lectures in Latvia. New Erasmus will help to continue development process.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)