

The Technical University of Cartagena (UPCT) is a young HEI situated in an area with good socioeconomic and development prospects. Since its creation and after a process of analysis of functions and capacities, the UPCT policy incorporates internationalisation on its management plans as a matter of priority, supporting any initiative with programmes and calls and advising about opportunities.

Considering internationalisation as a transverse process, it impels and develops the global strategy of the University, in which Erasmus activities have a main role. The aims of the UPCT International Strategy are:

- To establish strategic plans for international relations on each degree based on current mobility experience, its academic and the researcher projection on areas that offer added value on teaching.
- To foster new partnerships and visibility in order to improve the teaching and research activity as well as the attraction of international students.
- To elaborate mixed Study Programmes that might lead to offer double degrees.
- To spread the results of international activities fostering the getting together of methodology, surveys, analysis and pedagogical material to be translated into other languages.
- To promote widening and strengthening actions in order to increase the student mobility.

From 1998 the UPCT has actively supported and promoted student exchange programmes as a result of our commitment to the Erasmus Programme. The number of students and teachers taking part in exchanges is increasing every year. Our ambition - based on our high standard of education - is to be an attractive alternative for foreign students. UPCT will continue to give priority to partnership projects within EU programmes.

Concerning the promotion of the ERASMUS activities, the University has developed several computer tools for the information and management of programs and agreements as well as a Mentor Programme in order to improve the academic and cultural immersion of international students. The International Office has its own web page with all the Lifelong Learning Programme information; the Erasmus University Charter and our institution EPS will be published in this web.

As we can see from the exchange results, our Institution ensures to comply with non-discrimination objectives by making actions related to gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism.

To ensure high quality in mobility actions, UPCT develops a global strategy that reinforces the action lines used last years: continuous improvement of the mandatory internal regulations; evaluation and improvement of the agents management (coordinators, international offices, student services); facilitating the management of the academic recognition, coordinating the central administrative structures from the home and foreign University; updating management procedures of coordinators and students; updating of the international area on the web page; improving integrations of incoming and outgoing students through previous contacts, open days, free language courses, cultural and sportive offers, participation on the Mentor Programme and the use of surveys to evaluate exchange periods. Our internationalisation efforts provide a good basis for the development of educational programmes in line with the Bologna Declaration. We are also improving the academic offer in English for incoming students and currently offering a Bilingual Bachelor Degree on Business Administration. The student placements are managed in cooperation with many regional and social agents and institutions (public and private ones) like Chamber of Commerce, private Companies, City Council, Regional Government, etc. Any of them ensures high quality of the process and makes sure that project will prepare students to enter into the European Labour Market, will develop their

linguistic skills and reinforce their knowledge of technologies. The content of the work placement will be related to the training background of the candidate and grants will be distributed according to the different specialities of the UPCT.

The presence of the tutors and the evaluation of the final report by the UPCT, together with the partners will be part of the placement monitoring system.

Concerning the partnership, the UPCT focuses on technical institutions in order to achieve and maintain international excellence in the following areas: Engineering, Architecture and Business. All of Europe is a very important and influential market for building and maintaining research and teaching networks, and a market for recruiting students. Inside EU and Erasmus Community geographical areas, we are especially interested on Mediterranean countries since the creation of *Campus Mare Nostrum 37 /38*, the International Excellence Campus for Higher Education and Research of the Technical University of Cartagena and University of Murcia. The campus is a joint effort to transform the Region of Murcia into a pole of international, high-quality education, science, business and culture in the Mediterranean area. This is partly a result of the Ministry of Education emphasising the internationalisation of Spanish universities.

Latin America and Asia represent other regions of importance as emerging market for student and teacher exchanges.