



Erasmus Policy Statement

In the community of Bulgarian universities MU-Sofia ranks the first medical university on the bases of qualifications of its teaching staff, participation in international co-operation activities, number of papers published in national and foreign refereed journals, teaching programmes developed in compliance with requirements of European standards. The university has internationally recognised achievements in many fields of medical practice and science – neurosurgery, cardio-vascular surgery, ophthalmic surgery, high tech diagnostics of human diseases, medical genetics, development of new compound of synthetic and natural origin etc. Through the years the university departments and staff have been involved in international projects financed by the EU's Frameworks Programme, NATO, ESFRI, EUROCORES, World Bank, NIH, CEEPUS, Leonardo da Vinci Programme, as well as projects financed by institutions and research centers from USA, Belgium, Japan, Australia, India, Germany, UK etc.

Since its foundation in more than 60000 students have graduated from the Medical University – Sofia with more than 5000 foreign students included. At the moment there are more than 7 000 students from more than 40 countries of the world.

The University sees its top priority for the future in continually expanding its international relations in the academic and scientific field, making use of its contacts of previous years and building new ones.

The main issues of the strategy for the period 2014-2020 will be:

- to work for and enhance the spirit of international academic cooperation through collaboration with and education of students from abroad
- to establish inter-institutional partnerships more systematically;
- to work for an increase of teaching and non-teaching staff exchange and participation in joint projects of the programme;
- to review the list of partner universities and identify new ones that fit with our priorities and wishing to be involved in cooperation of mutual benefit;

- to increase partnership with universities and institutions from the neighbouring countries and from Central and Eastern Europe making use of long-lasting previous contacts;
- to try to achieve reciprocity in matters as student exchange ;
- to expand cooperation and agreements with EU and non-EU universities especially in postgraduate level thus increasing the opportunities for PhD students participation in exchange;
- to work for the developments of joined master degrees with renowned universities;
- to encourage participation of teaching staff in EU projects – Intensive Programmes, Thematic Networks etc.;
- to improve the overall management of student and staff mobility – for incoming and outgoing and develop study programmes in English for all faculties and departments;
- to search additional financial support for outgoing students and staff.

The EU Commission today presented a reform strategy to boost graduate numbers, improve teaching quality and maximize what higher education can do to help the EU economy emerge stronger from the crisis.

We expect that the participation of the Medical University - Sofia in the Program of modernization will reflect in the following areas:

- Improving the quality and the relevance of medical higher education, so that the curricula meets the needs of individuals, the careers of the future and the labour market, as well as stimulating and rewarding excellence in teaching practice and research
- Increasing the number of graduates, attracting a broader cross-section of society into higher education and reducing the number of drop out students
- Strengthening the links between education, research and business to promote excellence and innovation
- Ensuring more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance
- Training more researchers to prepare the ground for the future industries
- Providing efficient funding for free education governance and investing in education of high quality to meet the labour needs.