



Erasmus Policy Statement

DTU – knowledge for the benefit of society

DTU is globally recognized as a leading technical university with polytechnic elite research and the education of innovative engineers. This deep professionalism serves as the motive for a digital and sustainable change in a global world.

DTU is recognized and respected for the quality of its research, its alumni, its values, and its university culture. DTU aspires to be among Europe's leading technical universities and to offer the best Engineering Education in Europe, at the bachelor, master and PhD levels.

DTU is a university where people think, speak, and work together across professions, specializations, and cultures to create a sustainable future. Our doors are open to colleagues and students – and to society. This is reflected in world class research facilities and in programmes giving the students the freedom to follow their passion and transform it into technology that can change the world.

Internationalisation is a core element in maintaining and developing this mindset. DTU will continue exploiting the learning opportunities for students and staff within the EU and beyond as well as the opportunities for institutional cooperation provided by the Erasmus+ programme.

Participation in the Erasmus+ programme

DTU is part of a wide range of bilateral and multilateral agreements on student and staff mobility and research collaboration. During the later years, DTU has focused on building a strong partner portfolio with fewer, but closer relationships with institutions in Europe and around the world, always with a preference for university wide exchange agreements. Priority is given to agreements of strategic importance and potential for a good level of activity.

By continuous participation in the Erasmus+ programme, DTU wishes to facilitate international cooperation and provide high quality internationalisation possibilities for all DTU students, teachers and staff. Exchanges and traineeships provide opportunities for students and staff to

- gain international outlook, experience and competences
- seek out new or specialized knowledge, facilities, and learning environments
- improve their language and cultural competences
- get an international network of peer professionals
- improve their ability to work with people from other cultures
- become part of the European project

International students and staff at DTU contribute to a vibrant international student community and campus. DTU strives to attract the best students and most talented researchers from abroad. DTU promotes this action with a professional arrival and support system, helping to facilitate the integration of national and international students and staff on and around campus. This way DTU seeks to create the best possible opportunities for excellent research and learning, a fruitful mix of cultures, an active student life, and careers in a globalized world.

Through Erasmus+ collaborations, students and staff gain a unique international platform to connect their work and studies to the DTU strategy to be of benefit to the society.



DTU's Internationalisation Strategy

Being an international university is a very integrated part of the DTU identity. With all MSc programmes taught in English and 40 percent of the MSc student body being “internationals”, the campus is a vibrant and culturally diverse place. With an institutional focus on inclusion of both students and staff of all backgrounds, DTU's study environment and departments embrace more than 100 different nationalities.

Our values are innovative thinking, credibility, and commitment. These values promote an organizational culture of trust and respect, which ensures a productive study- and workplace. We lead the University through an active and engaging organizational dialogue amongst students and employees, between disciplinary areas and at all levels of management. This makes us an exemplary, effective and inclusive university facilitating an innovative mindset where people work together. This, along with the international outlook of DTU's strategy and policies, makes the charter principles an integrated part of how DTU is run.

DTU's international strategy is implemented through the following types of activities:

- International research cooperation
- Exchange of students and staff with partner institutions
- Recruitment of international talents – students as well as staff
- Strategic alliances and partnerships encompassing integrated cooperation within research, education and innovation

Research cooperation:

International research cooperation takes place both within the framework of DTU's Strategic Partnerships and at departmental level.

Exchanges:

Students and staff are exchanged within the framework of Erasmus+ and bilateral agreements. DTU aims to see as many students as possible study abroad as part of their degree programme. For all PhD programmes a period abroad is included to the greatest extent possible. The Erasmus+ programme at DTU is supported by clear and transparent administrative procedures. Support functions are in place to assist both students (incoming and outgoing) and staff members taking part in Erasmus+ activities.

Recruitment:

DTU aims to recruit the best international students and has a professional administrative system to welcome and guide them. International graduates are further supported in the transition between studies and getting a job in Denmark, focusing not only on finding a job, but also on living and working in Denmark and the Danish working culture.

DTU staff is involved in international collaborations through Erasmus+ and many other channels. International experience is deeply valued both when recruiting new staff members and when supporting the professional development of employees. DTU further has a professional setup of international recruitment and for welcoming staff from abroad.

Strategic Alliances and Partnerships:

Through the Strategic Alliances and Partnerships, DTU is actively pursuing strategic collaboration within



research, on joint study programmes, student exchanges, PhD education, entrepreneurship, and e-learning / blended learning activities. Activities also include summer schools, quality assurance, infrastructure, entrepreneurship activities and student competitions / hackathons.

Together with its strategic partners, DTU will actively pursue further development of this portfolio of development activities within the actions foreseen in the Erasmus + programme. DTU expects to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Erasmus+ programme such as e.g. European University Networks, strategic partnerships, and the Knowledge Alliance programme.

Joint MSc programmes are set up with strategic partners exclusively. DTU considers the joint programmes a strategic tool for quality development and internationalization and for enhancing the synergies between collaboration on education, research and innovation. DTU pro-actively supports the development of international study programmes and currently offers 25 joint programmes. Joint programmes within Europe are supported through the Erasmus Mundus and Nordic Master Programmes as well as through Erasmus+ mobility.

Examples of strategic alliances are: EuroTech Universities consisting of DTU, TU Eindhoven, EPFL, Technion, École Polytechnique, and TU München. Nordic Five Tech consisting of DTU, NTNU, Chalmers, KTH and Aalto University. Strategic partnerships on research, education and innovation with KAIST in South Korea, University of Queensland and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and collaboration with the Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research (SDC) in China.

Modernisation through internationalization

Mobility for students, teachers and staff is a key factor in maintaining DTU's strategic international partnerships and cooperation projects and thus maintaining DTU's position as a world class technical university. DTU's internationalisation efforts ensure international excellence in research and world class engineering education. This provides DTU's researchers, staff and students with strong international competences, outreach and networks, strengthening their competitive position nationally as well as internationally. Erasmus+ provides an important vehicle for the exchange of knowledge and methods, keeping both research and teaching excellent and up to date.

DTU anticipates that the Erasmus Without Paper will contribute to a further digitalization of Erasmus+ administrative procedures. Linked with other digitalization initiatives such as www.beyondborders.dtu.dk this is expected to impact and modernize the flow of information between partner institutions and DTU. EWP is further expected to ease the application process and related paperwork for participating students, helping to make exchanges abroad even more accessible to all. To enhance and extend DTU's strategy to offer the best engineering education in Europe, digitalize our activities and maintain sustainability as a formal and active learning objective in all our study programmes, DTU will continue to take advantage of the project based actions offered in Erasmus+ and from central level provide advice to departments that show interest in participating. DTU is looking with interest towards the partnerships for innovation projects foreseen in the new Erasmus+ programme.

Building a European Education Area

Erasmus+ is a central catalyst in the education of European citizens who are well educated, culturally open-minded, and civically engaged. To achieve this goal, DTU will work to make participation in one or more exchanges attractive and accessible to as many as possible. Supporting students and staff through



professional guidance and a strong administrative framework, offering financial support as well as a first class portfolio of exchange partners and strategic alliances will be key elements in making this happen. As an important part of supporting the mobility of students and staff, DTU will continue its work to secure smooth and transparent recognition and credit transfer. DTU will also continue the work to facilitate inclusive education for all.

Central Policy Objectives

DTU sees international credit mobility as an integral part of providing first class engineering education. DTU actively supports all students wishing to study abroad, via semester exchange or joint programmes. This plays an important role in preparing our students for a global labour market with a request for candidates with inter-cultural and linguistic competences. DTU provides a professional support and guidance system for both incoming and outgoing students, exchange options for students of all backgrounds as well as simple online procedures for applications, course pre-approvals and final credit transfer.

In the 2020-2025 strategy, DTU establishes three main objectives:

- To offer Europe's best engineering education,
- To develop technologies for sustainable change
- To assume leadership of the opportunities offered by digitalization.

DTU positions itself to be society's leading experts and providing reliable and knowledge-based advice on technologies for sustainable change. Thus, sustainability and environmentally friendly practices are at the very top of DTU agenda, and sustainability is a formal and active learning objective in all our study programmes.

To support this strategy, DTU's Executive Board has prepared a "sustainability programme" to reflect both international outlook and scope. In this context, 12 focus areas have been selected which are supported by internal working groups. Three of these have particular relevance to Erasmus+ and should be mentioned here:

- To develop a model for promoting cooperation on sustainability under the auspices of international alliance universities;
- To act proactively in relation to EU policy initiatives for sustainable societal transformation, and position DTU as providing solutions;
- To enable students and researchers to develop entrepreneurial skills in the intersection between sustainability and digitalization.

DTU maintains strategic relations to 12 international partner universities with whom we collaborate across the value chain: research, education and innovation. Nine of these are European partners in the EuroTech Universities alliance and the Nordic Five Tech alliance respectively. Both of these have the mission to develop technological solutions to the grand challenges of society. DTU sees these alliances as integral to its strategy and the Erasmus+ programme as an all-important vehicle to the activities therein.