



Erasmus Policy Statement

The vision of the University of Novo mesto Faculty Health Sciences (Faculty) is to consolidate and develop the Faculty as one of the recognized and desirable institutions in the field of education of health professionals in Slovenia and the wider region. The work of the Faculty is based on the commitment to excellence, dedication, responsibility and innovation, with which we want to contribute to the development of health sciences at the local, national and wider regional level. The Faculty aims to become the centre offering the latest findings, knowledge and research in the field of health sciences.

The Faculty offers six accredited higher education programmes, as follows:

- First-cycle professional study programme:
 - Health Care
 - Physiotherapy
- Master's programme:
 - Education and Management in Health Care,
 - Integrated Health and Social Care,
 - Health Care
- Doctoral study - third level programme:
 - Education and Management in Health Care.

To realize its vision, the Faculty has set six strategic goals:

1. Development of faculty and study programmes;
2. Ensuring and improving the quality system of the Faculty work;
3. Internationalisation and international cooperation;
4. Strengthening the research activity;
5. Socially responsible action and constructive cooperation with the environment;
6. Promotion of the Faculty.

In the field of internationalisation and international cooperation, the Faculty plans activities in the following areas:

- Signing of cooperation agreements with European higher education institutions;
- International mobility;
- Internationalisation at home;
- Carrying out research in cooperation with other research organisations abroad.

In addition to the strategic goals for the realization of the Faculty's vision, our goals in the field of mobility also include:

- Introduction of full and automatic recognition of ECTS after the completed mobility, taking into account the recognition criteria according to compliance of study programmes and curricula;
- Promotion of environmentally friendly practices in all mobility activities;
- Encouraging participation in mobility activities for individuals with fewer opportunities;
- Promoting civic engagement.

From year to year, the Faculty expands its network of cooperation with foreign European higher education institutions and similar institutions in the EU and the Western Balkans. By promoting international mobility, the Faculty wants to strengthen its integration into the international environment and thus contribute to the knowledge and transfer of good practices into its study programmes.

In recent years, we have focused a bit more on establishing partnerships with higher education institutions in Northern and Eastern Europe (Finland, Poland, Latvia), as well as in non-EU countries in South-eastern Europe that have already obtained the ECHE Charter. In the future, we want to further develop existing partnerships and expand cooperation with universities in the Northern and Western European countries. We are working to establish collaboration with universities in the European Union countries with longer tradition of academic education of nurses.

In order to achieve the strategic goal of "international cooperation", we will strive to:

- Sign agreement with at least one faculty in a EU Member State per year;
- Invite a foreign lecturer to an international scientific conference and thus expand our international network;
- Ensure at least one exchange of higher education teachers and students per year;
- Prepare an accompanying programme for exchange students, including accommodation options.

The Faculty is part of the European Higher Education Area. It seeks to strengthen cooperation with foreign higher education institutions. The development of the international involvement of the Faculty is evident from the following:

- Creation of a network of strategic partnerships with selected faculties in the EU and beyond;
- Strengthening of cooperation in international research networks and international projects;
- Increase in student exchange in order to offer each student the opportunity to study one semester abroad until the end of the second cycle;
- Increase in the enrolment of foreign students;
- Encouragement to use a foreign language in study programmes;
- Assistance in providing accommodation for foreign students;
- Increase in the number of visits of higher education teachers and support staff to foreign higher education institutions;

- Strengthening of the office for international student exchange and management of European projects;
- Strengthening of the quality of mobility activities with an emphasis on non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion.

The expected impact of the Faculty's participation in the Erasmus + programme on its development:

1. Increasing the level of achievement of graduates and researchers in line with Europe's needs:

- Encourage the achievement of learning outcomes of students from underrepresented groups and "non-traditional" students, including adults;
- provide more transparent information on the opportunities and outcomes of educational programmes and appropriate communication in the choice of studies
- reduction of dropouts.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education:

- Encourage several different modes of study, e.g. distance learning and modular learning, continuing education of adult returnees after discontinued education and others already in the labour market;
- Make better use of the potential of ICT to achieve more effective and tailored learning experiences, teaching methods and research (e.g. increase the use of virtual learning platforms).

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation:

- Promoting a more systematic integration of elements of mobility and internationalisation into curricula;
- Removing unnecessary barriers to the transition of institutions between higher education and masters;
- Promoting cross-border cooperation and exchange;
- Ensure full and automatic recognition of credits obtained abroad by effective quality assurance, comparable and consistent use of ECTS and the Diploma Supplement, and by linking qualifications to the European Qualifications Framework;
- Integrated Erasmus programme priorities, such as full and automatic recognition, digitization of mobile activities, promotion of environmentally friendly practices at all levels of mobility, promotion of common values and inclusive education.

4. Implement the knowledge triangle:

- Integrating higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development;
- Encouraging the development of entrepreneurial, creative and innovative skills in all disciplines and in all three cycles;
- Promoting innovation in higher education through more interactive learning environments and a reinforced knowledge transfer infrastructure.

5. Improving governance and funding

- Support the development of strategic and professional management of the higher education institution;
- Ensure that the Faculty is autonomous in adopting strategic guidelines, financial management, rewarding success in hiring the best lecturers and researchers, setting enrolment criteria and introducing new curricula;
- Enabled additional education of individuals in the field of international mobility, international research and pedagogical knowledge will strengthen the field of international cooperation and mobility.