



T.R.
OSMANIYE KORKUT ATA UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Erasmus Policy Statement of OKÜ (EPS)

Osmaniye Korkut Ata University is a major public comprehensive teaching and research university with high aspirations. It has devoted itself to a leading role in contributing through partnerships to socio-cultural and socioeconomic developments at the international level. It has had a three years of experiences of participating in the ERASMUS programme and its delivery of student and staff mobility has generally been above the national average of Turkey. We are also interested in the programmes of LLP such as Comenius, Grundtvig, Leonardo da Vinci. We are going to consider organising or participating in IP, CD or Thematic Network in the near future. Within the context of the Erasmus Programme 2014 – 2020, it is aimed to provide students, faculty and staff with more effective research, teaching, and service. With the Erasmus activities, we try to assess where we stood in the past, where we stand today and where we are going to stand in the future, comparing our current position with our peers. With respect to the objectives of the institutionalization of Erasmus student and staff mobility, we try to make our students and our academic staff benefit educationally, linguistically and culturally from the experience of learning in other European countries. We aim to mobilize 25 % of our students and 50 % of teaching staff, by the year 2020. We will focus on the technical areas around the EU countries to exchange our experiences.

Conferences, seminars, lectures with related leaflets, brochures, booklets, posters etc are organized in order to inform our students and academic staff about the Erasmus Programme and its activities. A highly comprehensive website is also established which is designed to give information about our Erasmus exchange programmes, both for students and academic staff (<http://www.osmaniye.edu.tr/>). We are going to publish our EPS on our homepage, info pack etc in order to give our EPS as a reference to our partners. It is our belief that racism, gender discrimination and xenophobia constitute serious violations of human rights, these issues are ensured by the authority of the Rectorate as well as the improvement of learning and living conditions of men and women of all nations. In this way, it is aimed to raise the consciousness of Turkish youth of the various aspects of the European integration and “European citizenship”. In terms of staff and student selection for the Erasmus Programme, it has been fair in the percentage of men and women and also it is wished to facilitate equal opportunity for disabled students: they are always given student guidance and support. For example, In order to facilitate equality of access to lectures for disabled students, some courses are presented on the first floor of our buildings. A number of people with physical disabilities are given the opportunity to work as the staff of our university.

Osmaniye Korkut Ata University underlines the importance of a sense of academic community and good working relationships between students and academic staff. Allied to the high quality of teaching and learning, this sense of community is understood to have been an important factor in making its programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level popular with intra- and/or international applicants. Progress is being made to adapt to and employ the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) system of credit transfer as envisioned in the Bologna accord as well as bringing in the Diploma Supplement for students who request it. With the use of ECTS, cooperation between international institutions is promoted, transfer of students between European countries is facilitated, the quality of student mobility is enhanced, and thus



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academic recognition is provided. Furthermore, to improve international transparency and facilitate the academic and professional recognition of qualifications, a Diploma Supplement is given to our students. It is designed to provide a full description of the nature, level, scope and status of the studies that were successfully completed. We arrange accommodation for incoming Erasmus students and academic staff. Hospitality is one of the cornerstones of the Turkish way of life. We organise orientation programme for our incoming and outgoing students. We provide language courses for our outgoing students prior to departure like English and Italian Languages.

Osmaniye Korkut Ata University has been awarded the Erasmus Charter in 2010 (since 2011, the number of outgoing students is approximately 150). In order to ensure high quality in student placements, our university's EU Office provides a high level of support. Orientation programmes aren't developed only by the EU Office, also by the individual departments. All our departments are in contact with several distinguished European universities to establish Erasmus Agreements in various domains. Departmental Coordinators provide guidance for students and academic staff, but their guidance is not intended to be either prescriptive or exhaustive. They try to ensure that student learning agreements are in place for both outgoing and incoming students and inform the Institutional Coordinator of the links they wish to maintain and of any new ones they wish to bring into being and bilateral agreements can only come into being through academic staff initiatives – this is best obtained through personal contacts with fellow EU academics. Once a bilateral agreement is in place, a defined number of incoming and outgoing students and staff are permitted to apply for funding to visit each other's institution. The Extended ERASMUS Charter is proposed to have in order to make Student Placements and teacher training starting from the next year. During 2009, necessary measurements will be decided by the support and advices of Turkish National Agency in addition to the work-programme and the placement agreements which will be constructed with the contribution of the ERASMUS partners. When they are ready with the evaluation and monitoring procedures, all of these will be put on the internet for students, teachers and the partners. For the recognition of the curriculum, we admit that institutions which sign the agreements commit themselves to the implementation of the programme according to the rules and procedures in their respective countries.