

BAŞKENT UNIVERSITY ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Internationalization is one of the spearheads of BU's policy, not as a goal in itself but as an essential component of the instruction and research process. As part of its strategic plan, BU is committed to increasing excellence in teaching and research and will continue to foster links with leading research institutions abroad to stimulate research through exchange of academic staff and to provide the widest educational experience for students through study in leading international institutions. While increasing internationalization in quantitative terms, increasing the in qualitative terms is one of the main internationalization policies. BU seeks to create an environment that welcomes students and academicians of all backgrounds with no distinctions based on national origin, ethnicity, gender, religion, or physical disability. BU educational partnership policy aims to aid the development of meaningful and fruitful engagements with external partners, without restricting innovation or the development of research links. BU Strategic Plan including internationalization policy and the awarded Erasmus University Charter and Erasmus Policy Statement are published at university website. During the last ten years the number of international institutions with which the University has active mobility agreements have increased sharply by 139 bilateral agreements with 21 European countries in 44 different subject areas. One of the main goal of the internationalization policy is "BU Community have right to benefit internationalization activities at various disciplines". Developing strong teaching and research collaborations is a key factor in our international strategy and IRCO is working to create a supportive framework for departments who want to build collaborations with overseas partners. In line to this aim, IRCO provides technical assistance for increasing partnerships and mobility. The agreements are planned in collaboration with Departmental Coordinators throughout the decision-making process and event implementation. Academic Assessment Coordination Office (AACO) monitors and evaluates in consultation with Departmental Coordinators to build strong relationships and partnerships with other organizations to provide dynamic programs that build community for BU students. Following the approval of the partnerships the agreements are announced directly in the University web site. BU defines internationalization as a commitment, confirmed through actions to infuse

international and comparative perspectives into teaching, research, and engagement activities. A BU board of management organizes annual meetings to highlight the necessity of international partnerships in the changing global educational environment. Individual departments are encouraged to meet counterparts at foreign universities and form collaborative relationships based on similar academic interests. Mobility activities are the main instrument to international exercises. IRCO prioritize the staff mobility budget to provide opportunities for every faculty member, administrative staff in various disciplines equally. We believe in that the process of internationalization has to cut across various disciplines to provide maximum benefit to the institution as a whole. By surveying faculty members who do not involved in mobility potential partners are determined so that each academic discipline may vie for international partnerships with its own specialists... While encouraging the benefits of international partnerships the possible benefits that the partners can expect from BU is emphasized. Partnerships are likely to be successful only when they provide mutual benefits to both sides. With this aim, facilitating reciprocity for both student and staff exchanges is the top priority for building up partnerships. During past 5 years the sharply increase of the incoming student number could be the given as the proof of this aim. BU has ultimate responsibility for the quality, academic standards and student experience of educational partnership equivalent to comparable credit delivered at the university. Students are fully encouraged to involve in mobility activities with fully recognition of their studies abroad. After having fulfilled the accession procedures of the Bologna Process activities, ECTS Credit system is being used instead of local credit system. All mobility students benefit of fully recognition for the credits they awarded during mobility period. As well as the student mobility, the placement will remain an important focus of the University's international programs. With awarding Extended Charter BU students will be able to harmonize and utilize the most updated theoretical knowledge that they have gained throughout their education with their European experiences. In this way the students would find the opportunity to increase their employability in European space.

Apart from student and faculty exchanges, increasing the implementation of international cooperation projects is one of the main aim of BU internalization policy. BU, which focuses on scientific research and production—perfecting learning and responding to the

requirements of the community as its essential strategies—aims at being a leader in the higher education system with its various practices nationally and internationally. Expanding the University's international linkages, bilateral and multilateral programs of mobility, participation in joint research projects together with partner institutions has become a top priority for BU. With this aim in order to support projects BU Project Coordination Office is established which facilitates technical assistance, consultancy, auditing, monitoring across the university. The office offers direct information and personal assistance in choosing a project and the direct contact for collaboration between partners. The office also gladly provides support in planning and orchestrating technical and auditing process of the projects. A project database is created and maintained on which important practices and experiences are documented and published for dissemination of the results of the projects and easy access to knowledge. This database serves as a cross-section for efficient collaboration and a collective appearance. At 20121/2012 Academic Year BU involves in Leonardo Da Vinci project as a partner. BU firstly prefers to take part as a partner in order to get experience and practice project dissemination to implement perfectly potential projects as a coordinator in future. International and national call for projects are published on the web site and supporting trainings are offered for implementation of projects Being a part of a project as a partner or coordinator for a faculty member is included in the academic performance evaluation award system.

Başkent University (BU) is the first Foundation University of Turkey generating science and service in health, encompassing numerous science fields with 11 faculties, 7 institutes, 11 research centers, a conservatory, and 6 vocational schools. The Faculty of Medicine contributes to national and international scientific community by diversified research facilities. Taking an operative role in scientific and technological progress, educating students, and offering high-quality education have always been among the fundamental objectives of the University. During past ten years Socrates and Lifelong Learning activities provides a high quality impact to BU's internalization policy of implementing an innovative and transdisciplinary global education area. BU internationalization mission is in line to Bologna actions with the objectives of launching

equitable access and completion, international openness, multidimensional transparency tools, lifelong learning, employability, student-centered learning and recognition. In the strategic plan adopted for BU, internationalization is cited as one of the main strategy by which the university will achieve its overall aim of providing education and research of the highest quality. The strategic plan underlined the specific nature of modernization agenda by identifying the objectives of the modernization period to reach at the global education area. Increasing international partnerships, increasing number of international students, implementing a developing and sustaining high quality education system, an expansion on international publication capacity, developing transparent comparable and competitive curriculums, being an innovative and entrepreneur institution and sustaining the higher place of BU at international ranking systems are the commitments of BU global education requirements. After having fulfilled the accession conditions and procedures of the Bologna Process activities as the BU educational reengineering process, quality assurance, transparency on degree programs with publishing information packages on web page in both Turkish and English language and comparable degrees provides borderless education at BU. Therefore, BU programs have been developed with clear international focus and provide numerous opportunities to practice and develop BU students' competences abroad. Awarding Erasmus Charter for joining "Erasmus For All" programme would strength BUs' implementing an innovative and transdisciplinary global education area aim. Being a part of this programme BU community will be honored by the benefits the opportunities of border education provided by European Commission. Erasmus For All will support international learning opportunities and knowledge alliances between higher education institutions to promote creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship by offering new learning opportunities and qualifications.