

## Erasmus Policy Statement

As a specialised institution for higher education, Breda University of Applied Sciences (BUAs) inspires students and staff to develop and use their talents as well as their personal innovative capacity to the fullest potential in order to provide innovative solutions to the (international) professional field and be meaningful to the globalising society.

### Internationalisation

Fully consistent with the course in previous years, internationalisation remains at the heart of education and research at BUAs. The view that internationalisation is at the root of our core business calls for an integrated approach that includes and connects all stakeholders both within and outside the BUAs organisation. BUAs adopts a holistic and multi-dimensional approach to the development of a comprehensive policy for internationalisation that is clearly linked to BUAs' vision and values and complies with regulations of accreditation bodies, EU funding rules and national law.

### Erasmus Programme

BUAs has an embedded international curriculum and an international learning environment (classroom) as key to the (high) quality of education. Student and lecturer mobility are important and proven tools in this respect. BUAs envisages to strengthen cooperation with high quality institutions of higher education in Europe and will continue to work on intensification of the collaboration with current partners e.g. by establishing more types of cooperation (blended mobility, Coil) and by organizing joint student activities that are available for all students also those with lesser opportunities.

The participation of BUAs in the Erasmus Programme is crucial in order to achieve the goals stated in our Internationalisation strategy. BUAs has translate her goals in the following themes:

#### Theme 1: Connected to industry and social institutions

Leading objective: Increase international presence and impact

The appreciation and judgements of companies and organisations play a decisive role in the assessment of the quality of our educational programmes and research achievements. As the labour market is increasingly and rapidly becoming more and more international/global, it goes without saying that activities need to be placed in an international context.

#### Theme 2: State-of-the-art education

Multiple leading objectives:

1. Learning communities in a small-scale international learning
2. more personalisation of education and blended learning
3. Study success leading to grip on student numbers
4. Improvement of student welfare

In this theme, the teaching concept of learning communities plays a key role. Rather than through an individual process, learning within communities takes place through an active and social process of collaborative learning in which the community of students, lecturers and industry are the driving forces. Moreover, by having students and lecturers from different knowledge domains and from different (cultural) backgrounds work together on problems related to the international professional field, students will

discover that there are multiple approaches to one problem and that different perspectives can be integrated to achieve a collective result. This all connects to the model of the international classroom, in which students develop intercultural skills by working together in international teams and learn how to apply their knowledge in these rapidly changing contexts.

### Theme 3: Research

Leading objective: increase impact of research results and more cross academy cooperation.

Although much of the research that is being done by BUAs lecturers already has a strong international scope, the strategic objective is to expand further via partnerships with internationally operating businesses and through cooperation with academics at our partner universities abroad. In this context, smart combinations with the focus country policy and with networks that were built around our educational programs should be made. BUAs also wishes to increase the impact of research results and to stimulate cross academy cooperation on the BUAs research themes. From an international perspective, the results of research should be more strongly promoted and marketed globally. Moreover, we should improve our access to EU funding.

### Theme 4: Operational excellence

Leading Objective: professionalization of staff and standardisation of educational and supporting structure  
High expectations are placed upon our lecturers and researchers regarding their performance. That is why they are involved in the latest international knowledge development initiatives in their respective disciplines, in the process of which they cooperate with industry partners and carry out research projects. Hence every lecturer is expected to take an active attitude in terms of keeping up with the latest developments in the industry. International Lecturer internships will become a regular activity at our institution. Next to the individual responsibility and commitment of students, the role of the expert and inspiring lecturer is crucial. Lecturers facilitate the learning process, provide in-depth instruction, and encourage learning by using the right assignments and (digital) learning aids. Fulfilling the different teaching roles does not only require lecturers to have skills in didactics of the learning community and the international classroom, but also in e-learning.

### Theme 5: Internationalisation

Leading objective: optimize global readiness of students and staff

The leading objective regarding internationalisation is to optimize global readiness of students. This essentially requires the international experience and awareness of staff to effectively educate in this respect. It is not enough to have a variety of international students in a class room, but it is necessary to create an international classroom as a deliberate educational concept through which the culturally diverse backgrounds of international and domestic students are actively integrated as part of the curriculum design. Moreover, BUAs wishes to increase the international experience of all lecturers and to bring the English language proficiency of all lecturers up to level C1.