

ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2021-2027

Erasmus Policy Statement – Universidade Católica Portuguesa

UCP's current internationalization and modernization strategy is based on the institutional commitment to instill a model of integrated internationalization ("comprehensive internationalization"). This strategy has been developed through the following actions:

- hiring more international teaching staff and researchers, particularly women.
- continued training of human resources and ongoing improvements of the communication mechanisms that support internationalization
- establishment of exchange programmes and international cooperation agreements, in all degree-conferring courses;
- support of international joint study programmes (joint degrees, double degrees or multiple);
- creation of degrees fully taught in English, and the adaptation of others to allow for a partial teaching in English;
- strategic alliances with Catholic research universities of international reputation;
- building a "Liberal Arts Curriculum", with a set of academic units fully taught in English, in various fields of study, open to students from other majors;
- increase the number of international and exchange students;
- developing the awareness of teachers, students, staff, researchers and visitors regarding internationalization as a transversal process to all the academic community;

The participation in the Erasmus+ Programme has proved to be truly fundamental to the development of many of this vectors, namely the increase of students, staff and teachers mobility flow, and the qualification and training of human resources for the support of internationalization (featuring the recognition of the growing importance of "Internationalization at Home", which, at UCP, has been put into practice, with great success, with the organization of international staff weeks and workshops for staff members from different services).

Integrated Internationalization also takes on the digital transformation of the University as one of its main points. Digital transformation is an institutional commitment strategically integrated and referred in UCP's Strategic Plan as "Católica 4.0" Initiative. Therefore, challenges set by the Erasmus+ Programme related to the implementation of proceedings that contribute to environmental preservation, information access facilitation and services associated with mobility management, such as "Erasmus Without Paper" and "European Student Card" are considered by UCP as an opportunity to develop one of its core strategies.

In line with the core principles set out for the building of the European Education Area, UCP actively promotes a model of inclusive university, through measures such as the creation of the Pope Francis Fund and the partnership with the Global Platform for Syrian Students. Furthermore, UCP adhered to the European Universities initiative and the European Student Card, as already mentioned.