



Warsaw University of Life Sciences - SGGW

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027

Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW's participation in the Erasmus+ Program 2021-2027 will significantly contribute to ensure that in the upcoming years university's objectives are met while strengthening university's international profile as well as increasing academic mobility and global exchange of knowledge and skills. SGGW will continue cooperation in current strategic partnerships in both Key Action 1 and Key Action 2 as well as initiate new links with elite institutions. University is committed to respect the equality of opportunities for all, including disabled participants and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Rules applied at SGGW prevent any manifestations of discrimination as candidates can work toward all offered programs regardless of age, gender, creed, ability and are treated equally. Scholarship schemes are followed toward students from financially disadvantaged families and students with highest scientific achievements. Special attention is paid also to disability with the support of Rector's Proxy for Disabled Students responsible for ensuring friendly conditions for fair access to all facilities (such as elevators, driveways and adapted toilets) and quality of education. Relevant integration of international and local students is actively promoted by the Erasmus Student Network helping students to fulfil administrative duties and organising international meetings, conferences, short trips and cultural events. ESN is involved in activities of the International Relations Office's which centrally coordinates academic mobility, disseminates information on mobility possibilities and promote activities supported by the Erasmus+ Program, is engaged in recruitment, preparation of application documents, contacts with host universities and solving emerging issues. IRO provides adaptation workshops and free of charge courses of Polish language.

Erasmus+ Program strongly influences internationalisation which is at the heart of the SGGW activities as one of the strategic topics, implementation of which is to fulfil objectives of the university's Strategy. SGGW strives to be a leading modern life sciences university with a wide range of disciplines requiring a multilateral education actions to enhance the quality of education, science and human capital development as well as to achieve sustainable outcomes, expand number of students and strengthen cooperation through participation in international scientific, didactic and research initiatives. SGGW aims to ensure a significant development of the academic staff, which translates into high parametric assessment and conducting numerous, high-rank research projects. SGGW highlights the need to intensify the mobility of PhD students and staff in order to acquire know-how and knowledge, become independent and self-reliant, join international research teams and establish meaningful and stable networks helpful in developing new research and teaching concepts. Cooperation with national and international scientists improves research activities and, consequently, increases the quality of education and student mobility with the full transfer of ECTS credits gained for learning outcomes. Faculty members are encouraged to coordinate and participate in multilateral projects leading to the creation of study programs offered in English, whereas administrative staff to take part in training opportunities abroad. Mobility of staff enables implementation of good practices of leading partner universities and gaining a positive attitude toward internationalization. Permanent contact with foreigners at the institution has a positive impact on higher level of internationalization of education resulting in acquisition of best-qualified and sought-after candidates for studies. The intake of foreign students constitutes an important source of future talented scientists. SGGW emphasises importance of strengthening quality of graduates who are equipped with global competences (such as language skills and intercultural understanding), innovative knowledge and skills desired in the labour market, and able to achieve a professional success in international environment. In order to make the academic offer more attractive, the catalogue of English-taught courses is regularly analysed and updated, with the particular emphasis on creating thematic modules. English-taught degree programs are organized on bachelor and master level. The faculty's initiative to introduce a double degree programs is actively supported by relevant administrative units such as the International Relations Office within the framework of formalised joint educational activities. Study programs are verified to ensure the complementarity. Also the matters of study length, fee-waiver policy, recognition and other issues are respectively set. Arrangements are finalised by signing the inter-institutional agreement. SGGW supports projects connecting education, research and business. Effective transfer of knowledge to the market is possible thanks to cross-organization cooperation, internationalization and global perspective. Cooperation with enterprises during educational process at every study level will enhance quality of education by gaining practical knowledge and offering a flow of innovation achievements. It is determined that SGGW's goals will be achieved through strong and effective partnerships providing basis for intensive cooperation that match university's strengths and geographical focus as well as hold the greatest potential for research collaboration and recruitment of students and academic personnel. Geographically SGGW is mainly involved in cooperation in Europe (strategic partners are members of networks: ELLS, CASEE, ICA and universities from neighbouring countries), United States, Canada and Asia, however collaboration with academic environments in other markets projected as future key regions is possible. International partner universities are chosen at three levels: general university partnerships, faculty partnerships and specific degree partnerships. SGGW will maintain existing relations in European and non-European countries provided their strategic importance and satisfactory level of cooperation. University also aims to pursue new opportunities to establish and further develop strategic alliances with competitive institutions abroad. Selection criteria include: offering education and research in the field of life sciences in the target regions, being internationally oriented and experienced in implementing multinational research projects and having a wide educational offer for international students (e.g. double degree programs, mobility schemes, distance learning opportunities etc.).

SGGW envisages that the participation in the Erasmus+ Program 2021-2027 will contribute towards modernisation of the university which will be visible in each of Program's priority areas. SGGW pays attention to become digitally-oriented in different fields. Main goals are to enhance digital skills of students and staff, assure connectivity through usage of freely available apps and embrace digital technology for teaching and learning. Steps have been also taken to introducing mobility management to digital age through efficient digital workflow that tackles unnecessary workload with the support of relevant technological tools (e.g. Erasmus+ Dashboard, Online Learning Agreement, European Student Card). At the same time SGGW presents its complete commitment to equality of participants with fewer opportunities through development of inclusive policies in reference to all mobility aspects. SGGW firmly considers that any societal challenges require interdisciplinary solutions and cross-border collaboration. Opportunities offered by the Program hugely assist in translating intercultural learning experiences into active citizenship and provision of European identity. University's academic offer have to be internationalised to benefit in full from Europe's cultural diversity as well as to ensure acquisition and acknowledgment of substantive and linguistic qualifications of students and staff. SGGW aims to introduce an approach embracing social and environmental perspectives. Negative impact on environment should be decreased at the same time correct balance between economic and ecological objectives must be obtained. Graduates shall be prepared to new globally responsible approach with full respect for natural environment and other people.

All international activities of SGGW will be regularly monitored and assessed, as well as benchmarked with peers, in order to guide any future activities, policies and strategic decisions. Further development of the SGGW Erasmus+ Policy Statement is expected with the introduction of the renewed Internationalisation Strategy in 2020.

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