

## Erasmus Policy Statement

The New Design University (NDU) is a private University with two faculties (Design & Technology) offering degrees at Bachelor and Master level in Interior Architecture & 3D Design, Graphic & Media Design, Event Engineering, Innovation & Design Strategies.

International co-operation is at our very foundation as a University – created from collaboration with Kingston University in London (2000–2006) who awarded our degrees until 2004 when we achieved independent University status. In the last decade we established valuable allegiances with several world universities in the form of „Loose Transfers of Knowledge“ (e.g. ad-hoc Agreements, Curriculum Development, Exchange of Expert Knowledge). These relationships have helped us develop a concept and priorities for internationalisation and borne us potential and real future co-operation and useful know-how with various partner universities but we felt that our aims would be better consolidated and exponentially widened through the various methods and expertise garnered over the years within the structure of the Erasmus and Lifelong Learning Programmes.

Our concept supports the Bologna Process and envisages the Erasmus programme as our principal exchange and co-operation programme, allowing us to deepen our existing relationships while in parallel attaining new partners, particularly in the new member states and „eligible countries“ such as Turkey in order to position ourselves within a wider European then worldwide network.

Our priorities & objectives are as follows:

1. To expand and enrich our study & teaching methodologies, curriculum, standards and programmes through exchange and collaboration (Continuous Professional Development).
2. Although one of the first Austrian Institutes to implement the ECTS system in all of its degrees, a dedicated member of staff will continue to attend Erasmus complementary activities and analyse, improve and disseminate this vital info to the University.
3. To offer participants the opportunity of study/teaching in another country/culture, experience other social contexts and educational methods and gain an international perspective which makes them more attractive to prospective employers.
4. To offer a greater range of subject areas and exposure to teaching methods than may be available in the „home“ University.
5. To offer participants the opportunity to improve their abilities in languages and a range of life-skills not taught at University.
6. To expand our relatively large proportion of foreign students and staff and create the opportunity to make professional contacts, providing future employment or educational partnerships.

Our priority is to strive for the highest standards of academic excellence through mobility, to continue attending National Teams of Bologna experts and ECTS/DS labels seminars et al and

eventually involvement in Dual Degree Programmes and Erasmus Multilateral Projects and active involvement in European research & educational projects.

Erasmus activities and outcomes promoted, and EUC/EPS published in the following manner:

1. International Office Website, Intranet Platform, Newsletter, Noticeboard, Info Flyers/Posters.
2. International Handbook: with info on all aspects of study abroad and answers to the most FAQs.
3. „International Fair“ & Study Abroad Seminars to disseminate info on exchange possibilities and partner institutions.
4. Discussion, Feedback Reports & Presentations with: Management, Student & Academic bodies.

An Equal Opportunities/Inclusiveness Policy is integrated into our University Statutes where the right of ALL to be treated equally regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or religion is enshrined. We also conform to state laws regarding these issues. We discuss, promote and update these in meetings between Academic Board, Management and Student Reps where Staff/Students are made aware of this position. Our buildings & some parking are wheelchair accessible.

To ensure the quality of our mobility activities offered by:

1. Optimising resources, services offered with good practice, quality control measures, continual appraisal & analysis and application of participant's feedback.
2. Services and facilities being offered to all participants allowing them to integrate study and work more efficiently.
3. Identification and maintenance of potential international strategic partnerships & academic relations with targeted institutions.
4. Candidate selection is transparent but consideration taken in a pre-exchange interview to suitability through motivation and academic & language ability. Participants will be advised on the suitability of targeted course, funding, insurance & health issues, cultural & social aspects, language, local info, accommodation and travel available to them.
5. Full recognition of academic work/ECTS points undertaken abroad; a Credit Transfer Board will determine equivalence and help define a Learning/Teaching Agreement with a partner University.
6. Maintenance and Publication of Information and Funding to keep all potential candidates updated in order to encourage participation in Erasmus programmes.
7. Staff participation in Erasmus Mobility: Positive encouragement & support of staff to further personal/professional experience and gain from the rich programmes offered.
8. Participants offered Accommodation Facilities in hostels if available or help with other sources; to alleviate organisational problems and ensure full concentration directed towards their study/work.



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9. Each participant will be given a mentor to guide & counsel; an Erasmus Buddy Network will support in some of the „start-up“ problems involved and with any academic difficulties.
10. Language Courses offered to aid academic prospects/comprehension and help absorb cultural aspects. ECTS points awarded as an incentive for successful completion.
11. Help & advice with formulation of Introduction Lettersm, CVs and applications.