

## **European Policy Statement**

**2021-2027**

For the University of Mannheim, the participation in the Erasmus program is a pillar of its own modernization and internationalization strategy. The positive effects of mobilities of academic and non-academic personnel and students and of the participation in international joint projects to foster competencies in students for the quality of programs, for the innovation capacity of the university as a whole and for increasing efficacy and efficiency in higher education with a broad impact for students, employees and people, institutions and companies in the region and beyond are extremely important.

Therefore, international exchange in teaching and research and the collaboration with universities and other partners worldwide is of utmost strategic importance for the University of Mannheim. As modern science and humanities have an international scope that not only includes global divulgation, discussion of research results, involvement of international peer-reviews and publications, but also international exchange of students and professors, the university strives to be a place of international cooperation. The international orientation includes all aspects of university life: research, teaching and administration.

The University of Mannheim has more than 730 exchange programs with roundabout 450 partner universities worldwide. Thereof, 240 partner universities are part of the Erasmus program. Every year, about 1,100 students from Mannheim have the opportunity to study abroad. In return, the university welcomes about 1,100 international students in Mannheim. The Erasmus program makes up about 50-60% of mobilities and is the indispensable foundation for European exchange. Together with roundabout 1,100 international degree-seeking students, the student body of the University is made up of about 18% international students. English-language master's programs and a very high number of English-taught courses in bachelor's programs add to this attractive international environment. The international curriculum is complemented by 17 double degree programs and the IBEA (International Business Education Alliance) program option in the bachelor's program "Business Administration" or the "Bachelor 4" program of the School of Humanities which includes a one-year period abroad. In the past few years, the University of Mannheim was also able to raise its ratio of international researchers to 16%.

The two main objectives for the internationalization strategy of the University of Mannheim from 2020-2024 are:

**1. Internationalization abroad**

This objective accents the international position and reputation of the university with regard to high-profile research and teaching, research cooperations and the education of future scholars, specialists and managers. A classic mobility period of studying, teaching or researching abroad is the preference here, however, the classic model may be complemented or partially substituted by virtual mobilities.

**2. Internationalization@Home**

Internationalization@Home is aimed at the University of Mannheim itself as a place of cultural encounters and cooperation in research and teaching. The university prides itself on an open arms culture for international members and guests and strives to convey an intercultural world view to all its members. It has set itself the high standard of aspiring to be a place that shapes integration and brings cosmopolitan attitudes to life. This way, students and early-stage researchers are to be educated for an increasingly international labor market to become responsible leaders in business, politics, society and academia.

The internationalization strategy of the University of Mannheim is in line with the goals of the European educational area. This concerns to an equal degree expanding the participation in the Erasmus program as a key to our goal of “mobility for everyone”, for students, teachers and employees, seizing innovative concepts such as digitalization in teaching and administration, developing European cooperations in the form of “European universities” or other networks, securing the principles of the Bologna reforms, promoting the acquisition of key competencies and learning languages.