

## 1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) 2021-2027

### 1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

#### Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

#### Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

#### Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

### 1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area<sup>1</sup> and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:

[https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The future of higher education is global in scale and as such our job at HZ is to help prepare the higher education world to act in this dimension. We educate people who understand and define their roles within a global community, transcending national borders, and embracing the concepts of sustainability and innovation. In this connected world we need to offer connections: between theory and practice, between learning and working, between regional and international partners. The HZ University of Applied Sciences (hereafter referred to as HZ) defines internationalisation as 'the process of integrating international, intercultural, and global dimensions into the purpose, functions and delivery of higher education and research'.

The mission of the HZ has been defined as follows: "*We are the university of applied sciences where students matter; we facilitate the education of entrepreneurial and innovative professionals for a sustainable and globalising society*".

HZ aims to contribute to realising the Human Capital Agenda of the Netherlands and to fulfilling the human capital and knowledge needs of corporations for globally oriented professionals – and that includes countries in and outside the European Union.

True to its mission, HZ wishes to strengthen its role in society, at its local as well as international levels and by doing so, contribute to a better and more sustainable world, showing HZ to be a truly international school with an international profile and reputation.

Internationalising higher education implies integrating an international dimension into the teaching and learning processes as well as into research and service functions of higher education. Regardless of where it is delivered.

The current labour market requires graduates who have sufficient intercultural and international (study/placement) experience to work within an intercultural and international setting. For this reason HZ works hard to ensure that internationalisation is integrated in its educational programmes and research activities, offering students and staff a basis to develop international and intercultural professional competences and prepare for a career in an international working environment. To achieve this HZ puts strong emphasis on incoming and outgoing international mobility.

Through international mobility HZ aims to create an international setting (classroom) for students and staff in which to practice and develop their international and intercultural skills. By means of practical placements and minor options, HZ ensures all students a standard mobility window, granting them the opportunity for a study period abroad with a minimum study load of 30 ECTS.

HZ education is organised into 3 Domains, each home to relevant academic programmes:

- Technology, Water & Environment,
- Business, Vitality & Hospitality,
- Health, Education & Wellbeing.

The related HZ-wide research themes are:

- *Water*
- *Energy*
- *Vitality*

The programmes work closely together with the research groups and with the centralised International Office, whose specialists offer long-standing quality in all the phases needed for the students' mobility requirements, including information and requirements per country/per partner institute. HZ strives to ensure that all of its students gain international educational and/or research experience whether this may be within or outside of the EU, realizing that strengthening networks within the EU are of the utmost importance but at the same time we have to contribute to strengthening the role of the European Union as a global actor.

When applied to Dutch language programmes, focus is on including *Internationalisation @ Home* activities into the curriculums.

Over the past years 10 out of 23 academic programmes have offered an international curriculum (English taught) and all programmes teach international components; new programmes are starting next year, recognising that their market extends beyond Dutch borders, such as *Global Project and Change Management*, and *HE ICT*. As a consequence, the combined experience on offer at HZ is varied in both rhythm and intensity, making International Office indispensable for mobility purposes in its full width and depth. In order to strengthen the combined activities, HZ has appointed a Director of Internationalisation Strategies in 2019.

**Location.** HZ is located within the Dutch Sustainable Dynamic Delta area, in the Province of Zeeland, and is a broad, medium-sized institution – a combination of aspects that provide unique opportunities to connect, research and work in an environment that has its set of challenges, and literally opens to next door availability for (innovative) practice assignments: all it takes is one step into gaining a work/learn experience not easily matched elsewhere. A work and research area that is within easy reach for students, and the experience gained at the same time offers worldwide impact when regarding our research themes.

HZ, through its core business of BA programmes, has a focus on providing an international perspective to its students – and considering the above, as well as the experience built over the years with Erasmus+, it stands to reason that students should continue to be part of exchange/traineeship adventures. Which accumulate to experiences that are both rich and priceless – more so because by experiencing the visit, they learn to be more prepared for changes that occur. Exponentially so. And these sometimes happen overnight: covid-19 is a dramatic

example of this, turning this into a document of expectations rather than a fixed planning document.

HZ is a medium-sized institution: 4700 students, 550 international students with more than 50 different nationalities, but the greater part, 70%, of whom are from the province of Zeeland. HZ intends to grow multi-year and multi-programme bonds with a small number of universities abroad; together, this group can co-operate and be recognized for their value in the relevant research areas of Water, Energy, Vitality. Negotiations are ongoing to realise this. It may be clear that HZ prepares its students for a world where continuous change is the norm, a world in which each student is learning to develop the core values, ready to tackle change, where all students are considered international, even though the approaches differ – and students are most welcome to add values. The luxury of mobility is one of the added values in this complex process, and we welcome it as an opportunity, as it helps to deliver students that are prepared – and are needed throughout Europe and the rest of the world.

HZ wishes to further modernise and internationalise its institution and contribute to the goals of a European Education Area as laid down in "Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture" and comply with the renewed EU higher education policy. The expected impact of HZ's participation in the programme contributes to the priorities of the EU: developing an ambitious agenda on education and culture, boosting mobility, investing in people and their education, and strengthening the European identity. HZ acts also in line with the Dutch Internationalisation Agenda HE, VH/VSNU, 2018, is set to modernise through prioritising in 2 relevant areas of said agenda:

- Inclusive internationalisation aimed at quality
- Improving the balance in mobility for both students and staff

In line with the above, HZ recognizes the developments new to the programme of Erasmus+ and wishes to indicate the ways in which the (planned) activities are incorporated into the HZ way of working in such ways that their impact can be seen and measured in the course of the Charter.