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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission. |  | |
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| |  | | --- | | **Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)** | |

a) How the HZ chooses its partners

HZ wishes to maintain and extend its international partner network. HZ aims for a sound balance between education, practical-oriented research and innovation (valorization) in cooperation with international partners in the triple Helix (businesses, educational institutes and government bodies). Based on its (double) profile, HZ seeks suitable, strategic partners abroad. To this end, attention is paid to accreditation results, quality and existing rankings. HZ’s profile is twofold:

(I) a University of applied sciences Where Students Matter and student-based and process-oriented programmes

HZ’s study programmes focus on knowledge development and the personal development of the student. Studying at HZ implies an intensive process of competency development, in which students - by means of interaction and reflection – gain insight in their development and the realised learning output. To offer students a good orientation on their future professional environment, a direct link is made in the programmes to real-life casuistry, for which the knowledge & attitude is needed to find the solutions. To this end, a sound basis of knowledge, an inquisitive and enterprising attitude, attention for ethical dilemmas and perseverance are prerequisites. The teaching hereof will partly take place at HZ and partly in other educational settings (company, institute, abroad).

(II) Domains of expertise with respect to international content

HZ continues to be a broad multi-sectorial university of applied sciences with a comprehensive offer in the sectors in which it is active and attuned to the demand for study programmes. HZ offers a differentiated educational variety, based on which students can make choices befitting their talents and ambitions. All HZ programmes offer international orientation.

The following domains of expertise focus more strongly on an international content: (1) Water & Land; (2) Tourism & Business and (3) Industry & Logistics.

Water & Land deals with topics related to the transition from water to land, such as found in delta areas all over the world. It deals with how people live and work in delta areas, where spatial topics occur such as estuarine dynamics, safety, resilient delta, aquacultures, etc.

Tourism & Business deals with topics related to how people spend their leisure time in international delta areas as well as the services sector.

Industry & Logistics deal with topics related to the types of work people carry out in international delta areas , in particular in industries and corresponding (water/land) logistics.

b) Geographical areas

HZ is active on a global scale. However, the focus of its international cooperation lies in Europe, Asia and North America.

c) Most important objectives and target groups of mobility activities

Students

1) In 2012, 25% of all HZ graduates had had an international study or internship experience (minimally 3 months).

2) For the benefit of increasing the number of international studies and internships inside Europe, HZ makes intensive use of the scholarship opportunities from the Erasmus programme. HZ considers it of great importance that there are also scholarships for studies and internships outside Europe.

3) HZ wishes to stay in touch with its alumni because of the positive effects this has on recruitment, guest lecture exchange and internship places. As a result, it will build an extensive alumni network.

4) HZ has the explicit objective to recruit a diversity of nationalities for each of its English-language programmes.

Staff

HZ stimulates foreign experiences and aims at 10% of its staff being active internationally each year, by means of executing one or more lecture weeks abroad. HZ facilitates and stimulates the deployment of international guest lecturers in the scope of – for example – the development and exchange of expertise.

HZ also stimulates – in the scope of the professionalization of its staff – that staff develop an international orientation. For this, both EU and non-EU educational institutes can play a role, in all first and second cycle study programs.

Cycles

Students mainly take part in first cycles.

**If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)**

**Original language [ EN ]**

International cooperation projects

HZ aims for a close cooperation with its international partners. In this scope, it wishes to pay attention to organising international teaching and training programmes. In the choices that were made, HZ’s profile and the Applied Research Centres and Centres of Expertise play important roles.

Proven successful examples hereof are the international intensive (Erasmus-) projects in the fields of Nursing and Business.

**Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)**

**Original language [ EN ]**

HZ works on the five priorities in the EU Modernisation and Internationalisation Agenda in Higher Education.

1 - Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

• HZ recruits international students and as a result offers them opportunities to follow higher education.

• Internationalisation of its education makes the HZ study programmes more attractive to Dutch students.

2 - Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

• HZ ranks among the top 3 of Dutch universities of applied sciences.

• HZ has been accredited and aims at keeping the accreditations for all its Bachelor’s programmes.

• The choices for developing study programmes are based on the (regional) domains of expertise, which also have international relevancy and are inspired by the top sectors instigated by the government, Horizon 2020, and the international professional field.

• International peer review adds to the general quality of education.

3 - Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

• The participation of international students in the HZ study programmes leads to a broader international orientation for students. Additionally, staff mobility leads to an exchange of knowledge, the use of real-life international casuistry, cooperation regarding curriculum development and applied research.

• HZ students, who go abroad, acquire intercultural competencies next to knowledge and skills.

• Cooperation with foreign partners offers more options to HZ students.

4 - Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

• Because HZ trains young professionals and the lectorates develop applied knowledge , businesses are capable of innovation and as such create value. Via its networks, HZ has up-to-date knowledge and real-life cases at its command and HZ plays a role in the valorisation of knowledge and skills.

• The practical-oriented research has an impact on the development of companies, institutes and the professional practice. This research takes place through international alliances and consortia, in which students and all other participants cooperate.

• HZ arrives at knowledge development, apart from via the Applied Research Centres, also through Centres of Expertise, working on education, research and valorisation of – for HZ - relevant domains of expertise, which are developed together with international partners.

5 - Improving governance and funding

Governance

• HZ strictly observes all governance codes, among which the Code of Conduct International Students.

• HZ accounts for its conduct in a transparent way.

Funding

• HZ aims at actively raising funds from (semi-)governmental organizations, companies, and otherwise.

• HZ is transparent in the way it spends the available funds.