

## **Erasmus+ Policy Statement 2021-2027 (Overall Strategy)**

The (VSH) Vistula School of Hospitality's vision is "to be an internationally- recognised tourism and leisure business school with a multicultural, innovative approach, addressing contemporary and future global challenges".

VSH as one of the leaders of internationalisation in Poland, aims to maintain this position by increasing the international diversity of its student population, faculty, and administrative staff. Thus, we will continue our efforts to assure the positive impact of the internationalised student population on their learning experience. We will also develop an inclusive and multicultural work environment for our faculty and administrative staff. All of this will be supported by the extensive implementation of the new technologies supporting the learning environment, including mobility processes.

Internationalisation is important to the long-term sustainability of the Schools's unique position, both at national and international levels. In all our international activities, we recognise the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation, as well as benchmarking with peers, in order to inform and influence our future practice, policy, and strategy.

### **Programmes**

Internationalisation will become a distinctive feature of all the VSH programmes. We will achieve it through various educational initiatives, such as joint, double, and dual degrees, developed and delivered with our academic and business partners from both the programme and partner countries.

We have high aspirations for our graduates to deliver employability skills, enabling them to successfully enter the job markets, and develop their careers. Across all our programmes, we will make innovative use of new information and communications' technologies, to enrich teaching and enhance the student experience.

We want to consolidate the international and intercultural dimensions of all of our study programmes, to re-inforce our distinctive features and competitive advantage. Internationalisation of our programmes will be reflected in:

- international content – international concepts and trends within the curriculum;
- international teaching materials – case studies, reports, assignments, mobile content;
- library resources, especially full-text commercial and open-access databases;
- events for intercultural integration – the events promoting the culture and tradition of various countries and regions, and expanding knowledge about the countries of origin of our students.

### **Students**

We will seek to offer more diverse mobility opportunities to our students, and to include mobility as an integral or optional element of an increasing number of study programmes.

In regard to our students' mobility, we are committed to extend the range and nature of the opportunities we can offer them, as integral or optional credit mobility components of an ever-increasing range of degree programmes. This will include both study and work placements in programme and partner countries.

We want to provide a strong base, from which, students will be able to pursue an international career in hospitality and tourism. This includes international skills and knowledge of European and international connections. Ultimately, employers in the region will benefit from the skills of their staff.

VSH expects to gradually increase the number of student mobilities over the forthcoming years. We will also make an effort to achieve a balance between incoming and outgoing exchange students. We will actively promote international mobility, when recruiting new students (for example, at Open Days and Orientation Days) and to current students, through our network of programme co-ordinators, VSH social media channels, newsletters, and posters around the School. On the other hand, we will take advantage of all possibilities to attract students from partner institutions to experience the VSH's educational offer.

At the same time, we will demonstrate our strong, institutional commitment to equality of opportunity, offering additional assistance to those from disadvantaged backgrounds. We have successfully made arrangements with partner institutions, to enable students with disabilities to participate in Erasmus + exchanges. We will build on our experience to enhance and develop inclusive policies and practices, with regard to all aspects of student mobility.

## **Staff**

We recognise that the key success factor in the area of internationalisation is the multi-national academic staff, being able to provide education for the diversified student population. Therefore, VSH aims to attract foreign academic staff for permanent or temporary positions, and thereby increase our academic and administrative staff's mobility. We will also integrate the foreign faculty and its staff in the life of the VSH.

Mobility of faculty and administrative staff is a priority for effective partnership relationship management, support of co-operation projects, professional training, teaching delivery, and programme development. We will actively promote to staff the personal and professional development benefits of international mobility, and highlight the transferable skills and competences typically associated with this experience, such as cross-cultural communication and language skills. The number of staff participating in both academic and training mobilities is expected to rise gradually.

## **Partnerships**

VSH will build its international reputation among the best higher education institutions in the world, by dynamic expansion of its international partnership network. Our strong and effective global co-operation will result in a growing number of top-quality education initiatives and partnerships.

Working with our current and future partners, and learning from them, will expand our knowledge and experience of other education systems and qualifications to facilitate admission, progression, recognition, exchange, and co-operation in programme development. Our international partnerships in both programme and partner countries, will also strongly support our faculty, staff, and student mobility, developments in teaching and learning, and industrial relations.

The university chooses its partners, from a large network of partner universities, supported by the European Union. It also has experience in hosting international students from Erasmus+ partner countries, such as: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, China, and Iraq.

Potential partners are selected using a number of criteria. These include:

- a. rankings in various international ranking systems, and the standing of the possible partner within their own country;
- b. strategic alignment or fit;
- c. overlap in academic profile with the VSH;
- d. recruitment potential;
- e. advantages in terms of an international experience for VSH students.

All successful partnerships are the result of a shared commitment to, and mutual benefit from the relationship. Our international partner institutions are diverse, reflecting the different needs and priorities of our partners' and our own faculty, staff and students. At the International Office, we encourage the development of academic-led initiatives and projects, disseminating information about new opportunities, and promoting good practices in all aspects of our international operations and strategy. We actively disseminate across the institution, and to our local community and beyond, as appropriate, examples of the outcomes and benefits of our international partnership activity.

VSH plans to contribute to the European Union's mobility and internationalisation agenda by maintaining what has been achieved, and by improving the quality of higher education. We will support actions, aimed at increasing access to the social dimension in higher education, through the creation of flexible learning paths for part-time students and students with demanding family responsibilities. VSH will increase geographical and inter-sectoral mobility, and will adapt their programmes and teaching methodology, so they are suitable for an international classroom, with both international and home students. We will intensify the links between education and business on an international level, in order to increase the number of higher education graduates meeting the needs of the business world and society. VSH also intends to develop closer ties with selected partners, through double or joint degree arrangements, and teaching and non-teaching staff mobility. All learning, teaching, or training visits abroad, will be integrated into students' and staffs' work load for the year, and if necessary, extra funding from VSH's own sources will supplement the Erasmus+ grants.