



Erasmus Policy Statement of Blekinge Institute of Technology

This “Erasmus Policy Statement” was written and taken through a decision by BTH’s Vice-Chancellor for the Institution’s application for the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020 and contains information on the institution’s international (EU and non-EU) strategy, including a) how we chose our partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of our mobility activities (with regard to staff and students) and finally how our institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees.

The fact that we live in a globalized world that is placing increasing demands on individuals’ as well as on organizations’ and even nations’ ability to communicate and interact across cultural, linguistic and national boundaries is now a well-known fact. An equally undisputed fact is that a well-executed international interaction is a prerequisite for sustainable national and regional growth as well as for global sustainable development. As a university, it is our duty to create opportunities for and contribute to the sustainable growth and development within our areas of responsibility in research and education. In addition to this, BTH’s focus areas (in line with “Horizon 2020) Applied ICT, Sustainable Development and Innovation together with our brand “In real life” set highly relevant, but not the less stringent requirements on the university's adaptation to the environment we find ourselves in. A high degree of internationalization of BTH's research and education is in other words not only a general responsibility for BTH as Swedish university, but a prerequisite for the achievement of BTH's overall goals and vision. BTH aims to be an international institution as a whole in which the international dimension permeates all our research and education as well as our support functions.

When choosing our partner universities we focus on two main aspects; quality and impact.

The first step of our quality control is of course through global rankings, but in order to retrieve adequate information from a potential partner about the quality of its research and education, it is essential to establish good contact between researchers/teachers within relevant areas as well as between administration and management of both institutions. No agreements are signed at BTH that cannot present an involvement from BTH’s core activities. To ensure compliance with this, BTH has adopted a process, where the university level agreements are always signed by the Vice Chancellor and where annexes to these overall agreements, specifying the content of the collaboration are signed at a departmental level. In accordance with our own emphasis on reaching and maintaining a high quality within our mobility processes, proven by the fact that the University received ECTS and DS labels in 2011, we naturally prioritize partnerships with institutions with these two labels.

When choosing partner universities we also consider the possible impact of the collaboration on BTH’s activities, i.e. will the university be an attractive destination for our students? Do we have interesting offers to the students from the university in question? Are there possibilities for staff exchanges and for research collaboration? Will there be possibilities to expand the collaboration to new subject areas in the future?



To summarize, when choosing partner universities we aim for deep (in the sense of staff involvement) and broad (in the sense of different types of activities and subject areas involved) collaboration with high quality institutions.

Sweden is a small country and BTH is a small university in Sweden. As in our research and education, where we have reached worldwide recognition thanks to our profiling, we have chosen to prioritize international collaboration activities in a few geographical areas: China (with two of our partners as main nodes), the state of Andhra Pradesh in India, the Middle East and Brazil. However, as stated above, BTH aims at being a truly international university where we in the future will continue to welcome a large number of nationalities among our students and staff. Therefore, in parallel to working within our strategic geographical areas, we welcome and encourage programs, scholarship schemes and collaboration activities that will increase the multicultural presence at BTH.

BTH's most important objectives within our mobility activities during the coming years are to increase the number of outgoing exchange students, maintain the high number of incoming students (both exchange and "free movers"), increase the number of staff participating in staff exchange, maintain the number of nationalities present among BTH's staff and students and increase the number of joint programs.

BTH's mobility goals for 2016 are:

- 300 - 500 incoming students (exchange and free movers)
- 150 - 250 outgoing exchange students
- 75 of BTH's personnel participating in exchanges.

Our experience is that focusing on collaboration on joint programs has positive effects on both the quality of the collaboration as e.g. it creates possibilities to better prepare participating students for their studies abroad, as well as for the impact of the collaboration as it increases the involvement of all levels of the University in the collaboration.

Today, BTH has two Master programs with the Erasmus Mundus label and has joint program and double diploma collaborations with a large number of institutions mainly in China and India, but also in Poland, Latvia, France and Germany.