



Erasmus Policy statement (EPS) - BTH

Reflections

BTH will fully support the new guidelines from the European Commission, adapt to the digitalization needed within the new charter and will take part in the technical development needed to accomplish Erasmus Without Papers and the Student Card Initiative. In concrete terms this means working with the Erasmus App, with partner agreements and learning agreements digitally and to follow the European Educational Area development in general. BTH is using the database MoveOn for the applications and will adapt according to the new requirements regarding the digitalization. We have already started to use the digital signatures which makes our work much easier.

We are convinced that the actions mentioned above together with shorter exchanges as blended mobilities will give inspiration and make exchanges more attractive among students and staff at BTH. In that sense the adaptation to the Student Card Initiative and Erasmus Without Papers is a part of BTH's modernization and international strategy which aims to increase international exchanges.

According to BTH international strategy at least 20% of the programme students should have an international experience during their programme studies. BTH embrace the idea to send more students abroad on shorter exchanges to reach this goal within the charter period.

In Sweden the recognition process is a little bit different in comparison to other countries and the students apply individually for recognition. However, BTH is encouraging exchanges for at least one semester which is described in all education plans.

Implementation strategies & achievements

Through the Erasmus Programme BTH will be a part of the European Education Area and will include students and staff with different social and economical background in the international mobilities and "internationalization at home strategies".

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. A high degree of internationalization of BTH's research and education is in other words not only a general responsibility for BTH as a 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.

Sweden is a small country and BTH is a small university in Sweden. BTH aims to be a truly international university where we will continue to welcome a large number of nationalities among our students and staff. Therefore, we welcome and encourage programmes, scholarship schemes and collaboration activities that will increase the multicultural presence at BTH.



By participating in the Erasmus+ Programme we will increase our possibilities to be a truly international and multicultural institution. It is of vital importance to give domestic BTH students an international experience not only by exchange studies, but by having a daily interaction with foreign students. The importance is two folded both making our Swedish students competitive after studies and fulfil the need of Swedish industry and society to act and be successful on a global market. At the same time our incoming students, either exchange or free movers, will hopefully in the future be excellent ambassadors for Sweden. These students will also have influence on both our education and research activities.

BTH is a distinctive profiled university with a focus on the digitalization of society and sustainability. BTH aims to be an international institution in which the global perspective permeates all our research and education as well as our support functions. By participating in the Erasmus Programme, BTH has the ambition to enhance its international engagement by aligning to the directives of the national authority and to the European Commission.

BTH would like to achieve following goals by participating in the Erasmus Programme:

1) Enhance the mobility of outgoing students

BTH has the ambition to increase the outgoing exchange students by participating in the Erasmus Programme. With the support of the Erasmus Programme, BTH will identify and develop new partnerships within EEA countries to send our students either for studies or for an internship. The ambition is to enable 20% of the student population to participate in an exchange programme.

2) Enhance of incoming students from EEA for diversity

Today master programmes and courses are densely populated with students from India and China. Together, they constitute 80% of the student population in the programmes. To have heterogeneous groups and diversified learning environment, BTH would like to utilize the ERASMUS Programme to attract the incoming students from EEA for creating a multicultural learning environment. The ambition is to attract at least 20 students from EEA for each master's programmes. BTH wants to achieve the goal by attracting the incoming students either by short term exchanges or by collaborating/developing new jointor double degree programmes within partners from EEA. We are presently developing a double degree programme with the University of Latvia. Students from the Master's Programme in Computer Science at the University of Latvia will study at BTH for two semesters either on our Master's in Computer Science Programme or on our Master's in Software Engineering Programmes, depending on their track at home. Through the Erasmus+ ICM programme we have developed two double degree programmes in Computer Science with Kharkov National University of Electronics in Ukraine and Bonch-Bruевич Saint-Petersburg State University of Telecommunications in Russia. The collaboration with these two universities has started earlier but thanks to the Erasmus+ ICM programme we have been able to develop these two new programmes. Thanks to the Erasmus ICM programme we are now able to expand our partnerships outside Europe. Since the Erasmus ICM started BTH has had several successful collaborations with new partners outside Europe.



Erasmus+



Funded by
the European Union



3) Enhance the mobility of staff and researchers

BTH has the ambition to provide the staff with sufficient international exposure and access to global networks in the area of their research. BTH wants to increase the mobility rate of the researchers within the EEA region to accelerate the development of new international research projects ideas.

With the Erasmus Programme, BTH wants to enable their 10% of the staff to participate in the active mobility programmes and encourage the researchers to apply for European funded programmes.

4) Partnership for Joint- or Double master's degree Programme:

BTH's international strategy advocates in creating a strategic partnership of excellence within research and education to enhance the quality and create impact. Previously, BTH had the expertise of cooperating in two master programmes with Erasmus Mundus Label. BTH will prioritize again to develop Erasmus Mundus joint- or double degree master programmes coupled with a strong research emphasis in close collaboration with the industry. Such initiative will also create a strong foundation for the joint doctoral programme with European partners.

5) Digitalization for governance and administration

BTH fully supports the new guidelines from the European Commission, and adaptation to the digitalization needed within the new charter. BTH will take part in the technical development necessary to accomplish Erasmus Without Papers and the Student Card Initiative. In concrete terms, this means working with the Erasmus App, working with documents as Partner Agreements and Learning Agreements digitally and to follow the development within European Educational Area.

6) Collaboration for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

BTH has the ambition to create a "Global Innovation Ecosystem" within the profile of digitalization, with close global partnerships with universities and the wider innovation ecosystem (Science parks, Incubators, Accelerators, Industries and Venture capitalists). The ambition is to provide the students and researchers with the below: 1) Workshops on need finding and ideation 2) Methods and tools to create and validate proof-of-concepts with global relevance 2) Encouragement and assistance in creating start-ups with global significance 3) Support to attract seed funding 4) Access to test markets and/or testbeds for validation 5) Matchmaking with potential corporate innovation partners The ambition is to inculcate start-up culture among the students and researchers in the university and encouraging 10% of the student's population in creating new start-ups, new ventures or to engage in the activities of corporate innovation.

How the participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into BTH's institutional internationalization and modernization strategy

BTH is a profiled university with "dual excellence" where the research and education are conducted in collaboration with the broader society and encourages extensive community involvement. The core objective is to contribute to sustainable social development by solving global societal challenges through higher education, research and innovation.

BTH believes that students and staff will gain the ability to address global challenges by participating in international engagement in a more sustainable and practical way, which the Erasmus Programme promises to offer. Following provides elaboration on how the proposed activities are relevant to the international and modernization strategy of BTH.



1) Enhancement of mobility of outgoing students

BTH ensures to provide the students with global skills and necessary international understanding. Such skills enable meeting globalized labour market requirements and evolve as "Global Citizens".

BTH achieves the goals by executing various activities which are classified as "Internationalization at Home (IAH)" and "Internationalization Abroad (IA)". BTH believes that activities under Internationalization Abroad, such as mobility for studies or internships to other countries will enhance the global competence and employability skills. The Erasmus Programme (Key Action 1 Mobility of Individuals) supports activities of "Internationalization Abroad" and it aligns to the BTH's international strategy.

2) Enhance of incoming students from EEA for diversity

BTH would like to enhance international understanding and cross-cultural competence by creating a multi-cultural learning environment through "Internationalization at Home". Internationalization at home benefits the students who could not participate in the physical mobility. BTH is committed in creating "diversified classrooms". For achieving this mission, Erasmus Programme (Key Action 1 Mobility of Individuals) will provide European incoming students, which will significantly boost in creating a multi-cultural learning environment.

3) Enhance the mobility of staff and researchers (inward and outward):

BTH's strategy is to enhance international understanding of their staff and provide exposure to international networks. BTH believes that mobility of staff will improve their international understanding and further offer ample opportunity for future collaborations for co-creating joint research projects within EU. BTH believes that activities of the Erasmus Programme (Key Action 1, Mobility of Individuals) complement the BTH's strategy for staff and researchers.

4) Partnership for Joint master's degree Programme

BTH's strategy advocates in creating a strategic partnership of excellence in education to develop high-quality education in close collaboration with industry partners to develop "Global Professionals for Global World". The objectives of Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees (EMJMD) programme matches with BTH's strategy on education. Hence the activities of Erasmus Programme (Key Action 1 Mobility of Individuals – EMJMD) also fits into the BTH's strategy.

5) Digitalization for governance and administration.

Being a university with a focus on digitalization's, BTH has the ambition to take advantage of the available digital opportunities. Digitalization modernizes the working of the university for achieving a high level of transparency and efficiency in administrative routines and also in providing services to the students and staff. BTH's modernization strategy aligns to the new guidelines from the European Commission and digitalization needs of the proposed new charter.

BTH believes that the participation in European collaboration activities and mobility are essential for the successful execution of the strategy. Through educating creative and independent students with BTH's profile and highly relevant skills for the European labour market, BTH's students can by participate in the Programme and contribute to the improvement of the quality and relevance of the teaching in Europe.



Erasmus+



Funded by
the European Union



6) Collaboration for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Innovation is one of the focus areas of the university. BTH's strategy for collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship is to take an active part in creating a strong innovation ecosystem in close collaboration both with the local and global community (within EU) to enhance the capacity of students and researchers to become future entrepreneurs or corporate innovators. BTH encourages innovation and entrepreneurship as part of its core education and research to develop Sweden's and Europe's industrial leadership. BTH is involved in various collaboration projects on innovation with EU and non-European partners. For example, BTH's collaboration with Stanford University is focused on corporate innovation for a leading Swedish automobile industry and the project "Digital Hansa" has a focus on creating an innovation ecosystem between the three cities, Gdynia (Poland), Klaipeda (Lithuania) and Karlskrona (Sweden). The Key Action 2 of Erasmus Programme will encourage to implement similar projects for enhancing



Erasmus+



Funded by
the European Union