

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

The University of Castilla-La Mancha has remained, since its beginnings in 1985, a very strong international vocation that has allowed us to develop many academic programs in collaboration with international institutions and organizations of many different fields worldwide.

In the past it has been lack of knowledge of foreign languages that has diminished the potential for the internationalization. For this reason in the last years several activities have been in place in order to facilitate the mobility and to promote other international activities. It has created the UCLM Languages Center, as part of the structure of the academic and institutional organization of the University. This Center, as detailed elsewhere in this Charter, shall coordinate the teaching of foreign languages that UCLM offers itself to our students, teachers and administrative staff, among many other activities.

UCLM has enhanced the implementation of international cooperation agreements with universities around the world, particularly fostering relations with China, Brazil, North Africa and the Middle East, the United States and Hispanic America. The intense activity that in this field of the International Relations is developed by UCLM's professors and researches is these days one of the most important issues that bring new international partners to UCLM by the implementation of new agreements in the areas of research, teaching or institutional relations.

Besides, the Vice Chancellory of International Relations promotes our participation in meetings organized by international partners and other institutions such the OAPPEE, and these meetings bring as well new opportunities for the reach of international agreements.

The main topics when choosing partners for any international program in UCLM are:

- 1.- Academic Excellence of the partner institution.
- 2.- Alignment with UCLM's corporate goals.
- 3.- Participation of third institutions, such sponsoring companies...
- 4.- Projects that contain research items.
- 5.- International mobility of professors, researchers, staff or students.

In this regard, we have decided to increase the level of collaboration with these countries with the participation of public and private institutions that sponsor the implementation of UCLM specific programs in collaboration with these countries, such as Banco Santander, some Diputaciones Provinciales or Spanish and European educational agencies.

Recently they have been started cooperation with interesting programs with Kazakhstan, Brazil, USA Saudi Arabia, among others.

Within this UCLM internationalization strategy our Institution has initiated a program to promote teaching in English in undergraduate and master's degree, and on the other hand maintains international double degree agreements with the universities of Paris-Est Creteil Val de Maine and Group ESC Troyes (France), Kiel and Passau (Germany) and Évora (Portugal).



The aim of UCLM's internationalization strategy is as well going deeper in the agreements that we hold with universities within the European Union. As an example, we can say that we are participating in the implementation of the program for developing the mobility for postgraduate masters with France.

Dealing with the academic design of our courses, our students are now required to certify some accreditation of foreign language (level B1) to obtain the undergraduate degree and some Master's degree at UCLM.

Professors, researchers and staff at UCLM are highly internationalized and can apply every year to the competitive public calls for international mobility promoted by UCLM (Teaching Staff – TS- and Staff Mobility –SM-) or any other institutions, in Spain or abroad. These two calls (TS and SM) are quite welcome by our university community and provide new ways for agreements with international partners.

In the other hand, our University is conducting a thorough review of our website to make it easier to find any item to the international students, so that we have already translated into English already quite much of its contents.

The most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities could be summarized in the acquisition of methodological competences that enhance our students and personnel a better development of their global professional activity.

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The Vice Chancellery of International Relations is designing a plan to increase the number of cooperation programs that UCLM maintains with other EU universities/ institutions such Tempus, Erasmus Mundus... and so.

Recently they have been launched (or are about to be launched), interesting cooperation programs with non EU countries like Bolashak (Kazakhstan), Science without Borders (Brazil), Study Abroad (TAMU, USA) or Al Jazan (Saudi Arabia), among others . In parallel and in collaboration with the UCLM's General Foundation we develop every year both the Bicentennials Program (with countries in Hispanic America) and Al Mamun of Toledo Program (with countries in North Africa and the Middle East). It is our aim to increase strongly in the coming years the level and the number of cooperation agreements like those or similar.

UCLM is internationally known in the field of the Postgraduate Courses in Law because of its famous Cursos de Posgrado en Derecho, placed in Toledo and quite successful among the Hispanic American law community of professionals, professors and researchers. It is our aim to continue with this program and to promote a similar one in the field of business, in relation with Social Corporate Responsibility of companies, which has just begun in 2012.

UCLM is a public, young, regional and comprehensive university. Located in the South of Madrid the region of La Mancha is 79,461 square kilometres, with approximately 2 mill. inhabitants and an economy based majorly on agriculture. UCLM is the unique public university in the region.

In its almost 30 years of existence UCLM has been an engine for the development of the region its society and its economy. Since its was born the Internationalization has been considered one of the pillars for the development of the university together with research. In this sense we have been beneficiaries in different ways of European Programs that have helped in the establishment of an International Unit and in the implementation of an international perspective abroad and at home. With UCLM's participation in the Program we expect for 2014-2020:

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

UCLM attracts mainly young population of the region with specific characteristics for their linkages with agriculture. We will work in a better offer adapted to the society needs linked to the global development, accredited through the Diploma Supplement. Participating in an international mobility program with financial support with possibilities in all levels and areas is one of the main objectives.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

We are already developing different modes for studying. Just this year it's been created a structured online offer: <http://www.uclm.es/estudios/catalogo/online/>. For our multicampus structure we have a broad use of ICTs as a strong support for the teaching and we would like to take into account when participating in international projects and consortia. Even though the financial crisis the university will encourage and promote with a wide range of tools the professional development of its professors and researchers and their internationalization.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

The recognition of the studies abroad are quite well implemented but we will work in a more transparent and clean management for the learning agreements by creating a specific application. Nowadays we do not have a lot of double or joint degrees. Having student and teaching mobility as starting point for the linkages with European institutions, we would like to increase the number and variety of opportunities.

4. Making the knowledge triangle work linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.

Internationalisation is one of the most relevant objectives of the regional government for the development. The links with regional government, companies and other institutions should work in a common framework for the economic development.

5. Improving governance and funding

Having in the governance team academics and researchers that participate in international programs to provide to the governance broader perspective and good/bad practises.