

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Institutional Code: E SEVILLA 05

Participant Identification Code (PIC number): 943510368

Universidad Internacional de Andalucía (UNIA) belongs to the public Andalusian system of universities. Our university is focused on graduate studies and is committed to develop the sustainable progress of its local environment, which has an international calling, based on cooperation and solidarity, particularly with Latin American and the North of Africa, responding with quality, innovation, speed and flexibility to the emerging challenges of society in different fields of science, technology, culture and arts.

In this dynamic, interrelated and changing environment, the global production of knowledge requires a competent and experienced team who is able to articulate local and global perspectives, as well as to develop the transfer of our experience in international spaces. In this context, internationalization is a challenge that the *Universidad Internacional de Andalucía* assumes in order to response to the increasing requirements arising from the globalization promoting a “knowledge society”.

Since its beginnings, UNIA is an academic institution with an international vocation. Its history dates back to the early 1940s, with the launch of the first summer university courses (dedicated to the History of America), held in the *Monasterio Santa María de La Rábida* (Huelva). But it wouldn't be until 1994, when UNIA was created, as a permanent discussions fora and as a knowledge-sharing project addressed to the Andalusian, Spanish and foreign universities.

It is important to note the existence of geographical, historical and cultural reasons that explain the links of the UNIA with Europe, Latin America and Africa, especially with the Maghreb. In this way, after more than twenty years of experience, our academic institution has become a bridge between European universities and centres of Higher Education Area (EHEA), supporting the partnership and commitment to the development of other areas of the world, placing the UNIA in a privileged position as a strategic partner for the development of initiatives such as the *Espacio Iberoamericano del Conocimiento* (EIC) and the *Espacio Euro-Mediterráneo de Educación Superior e Investigación* (EEMESI).

The quality, visibility, recognition and the international position of the UNIA are basic aspects that are associated with a process of institutional, sustained and growing internationalization, that involves various aspects that have already been mentioned. As well as others not listed, such as: mobility of students, teachers and administration and services personal (PAS); development of the International Association of Students (*Programa Alumni*); implementation of transnational training programs and the application of ICTs in learning processes.

The internationalization of university education, defined as the process of integration and international, intercultural and/or global dimension into the goals, functions (teaching, learning, research, services) and delivery of higher education is an essential factor reform to improve the quality and efficiency of the Spanish universities, favours the approach to excellence as an element that should inspire the Spanish education and to move towards a society and knowledge economy that encourage a development model and more solid and stable growth.

From January 2014, with the launch of the “Erasmus+ educational Program - Horizon 2020”, UNIA assists and promotes a serious attempt to advance towards the imaginary of the “knowledge society” and consolidate its international projection, developing a series of measures, such as:

1. Increase and strengthen the presence of UNIA in international forums, associations and organizations:
 - Seeking new channels and procedures to improve university training with regard to promote the internationalization of activities of other universities and institutions (networks, programmes, call for papers, etc.)
 - Establishing a register-schedule of official calls.
 - Participating in joint calls and programmes with an international scope.
 - Establishing new international alliances:
 - Increasing the number of agreements with foreign universities. Especially European, Latin American and North African (Maghreb region).
 - Increasing the number of Bilateral Erasmus Agreements. Especially universities in Eastern Europe (*inter alia*, University of Economics in Poland & University of Zagreb in Croatia).
 - Developing and extending the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education values.

2. Improve the planning, development & visibility of UNIA's internationalization activities:
 - Preparing an internationalization programme to enable the activities to be carried out, increasing our efficiency and promoting a balanced budgetary control.
 - Improving the location and visibility of international activities in the UNIA's website and in other communication platforms.

3. Promote the design of academic programmes, that respond to international demands, in order to facilitate the mobility and the exchange among teaching-staff and students:
 - Participating in European programmes with other countries.
 - Increasing the participation of UNIA in academic programmes for teaching Spanish and Hispanic Culture.
 - Initiating a new step of UNIA's expansion in new geographic areas.

4. Consolidate the UNIA's integration into the European Space for Higher Education.
 - Participating in European European programmes for the mobility of lecturers, students and STT.
 - Adapting the academic programmes to the ESHE's requirements.

5. Contribute to building the *Espacio Iberoamericano del Conocimiento* (EIC):
 - Organising activities and forums related to the EIC.
 - Establishing new strategic alliances with public and private institutions and civil society organisations.
 - Making use of the *Grupo de Universidades Iberoamericanas La Rábida*, as an instrument to contribute to the development the *Espacio Iberoamericano*¹ de Conocimiento.
 - Strengthening the *Grupo La Rábida*, improving its composition and the dynamics of its internal and external activity.
 - Increasing the visibility of *Grupo La Rábida* within this Ibero-American academic scope.
 - Participating in official calls to finance new activities.

¹ Vid. *Grupo de Universidades Iberoamericanas La Rábida*, more information is available on the Website: www.grupolarabida.org