Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]
The overall aim of Karolinska Institutet (KI) is to improve people’s health through research and education. Internationalisation, i.e. all activities bringing an international dimension to the university, is essential for maintaining and increasing the quality of higher education on all levels and to attract the most prominent students and staff world-wide. It is required that everyone who works or studies at KI – researchers, faculty, administrative staff and students – is well prepared for international collaboration and the international dimension must be integrated in all aspects of education and available to all.

The internationalisation strategy of KI aims at facilitating prioritisation and strategic investments in order to improve our university’s quality and diversity in research, education and administration. To choose outstanding partners from all over the world and actively build well-grounded strategic collaborations with higher education institutions and regions facilitates exchange of knowledge and experience, people and ideas. The educational exchange is extended and improved and the university’s competitive value is strengthened, both nationally and internationally.

The most important factor when choosing international partners is high quality, as competitive research and education contribute to the reputation of KI and ensure the right conditions for alliances. High quality provides clear added value for all parties involved and can be defined in different ways. Collaboration with highly ranked universities helps KI to develop towards the vision of being one of the world’s leading medical universities. Another aspect of high quality is having collaboration with higher education institutions that offer similar educational programmes, where KI can profit from the added benefit of having several study programmes participating in exchange with the same institution. Such collaborations also strengthen the cooperation between programmes within our university. The global health aspects and issues that KI wants all students and faculty to be proficient in are often best covered by having collaboration with institutions that offer access to knowledge, problems and environments that do not exist in Sweden.

KI has agreements and extensive cooperation all over the world, from the Nordic region and the rest of Europe to nations such as USA, China, Japan and Uganda. Collaborations with these and other countries embrace many different fields of medicine and health sciences and geographically spread agreements are encouraged based on the quality aspects listed above. Higher education institutions that can offer both strong research and educational environments should be chosen. A set of ethical guidelines is in place and used when new agreements are discussed and signed.

All students at KI should, upon graduation, have competences for working in multicultural environments as well as on an international labour market with varying socioeconomic conditions. Hence, everybody studying or working at KI is a target for international mobility measures. Students at all levels of education should be offered a wide range of high quality exchange agreements in different geographical areas, and faculty and staff should be encouraged to take part in teaching and training mobility. An increase in both student and staff mobility is one of the goals in the new action plan for internationalisation of first and second cycle education that will be implemented from 2014. An action plan for internationalisation of third cycle education is also under development and has as a goal that a majority of our third cycle students should conduct part of their education at an institution outside Sweden. Students not participating in mobility will benefit from participating in courses offered in English at KI, as well as activities with incoming faculty and students, and all KI students will be educated on global health issues when the new action plan for first and second cycle education is implemented.

Participation in international cooperation and mobility programmes is of great importance to KI to enhance the quality of education and the intercultural understanding. KI participates as a partner in several Erasmus Mundus projects and has double degree collaborations within third cycle education with Makerere University in Uganda, Stellenbosch University in South Africa as well as Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and National University of Singapore. On a national level, the first joint degree programme on second cycle level started in 2011 and is offered in English for all nationalities and the first international joint degree programme with European partners is starting in 2013.

If applicable, please describe your institution’s strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]
KI strives at further enhancing its internationalisation efforts, which are the responsibility, in the first instance, of active researchers, faculty and students. The action plans adopted by the Boards of Education and Doctoral Education point out the direction for the international activities within the study programmes and on departmental level, where the competence and motivation of faculty and staff are crucial to improve the quality of education and training. Professional and personal development gained through international collaboration and mobility activities are therefore essential. Appointed academic coordinators for a selected number of KI’s international strategic alliances world-wide ensure that these collaborations include activities at all levels and contribute to enhancing the quality of our operations. The administrative support functions will continue to facilitate, coordinate, supplement and improve not only the participation in international collaborations and cooperation projects but also the visibility of KI’s internationalisation efforts.

Participation in international cooperation projects should be an integral part of our university-wide collaborations. Under the new Programme KI will continue to build on the experiences gained through successful participation in several international cooperation projects as well as EU-funded projects and thematic networks, such as intensive programmes, academic networks and multilateral projects within the Lifelong Learning programme, Erasmus Mundus and to some extent Tempus. The large network of Nordic and other European higher education institutions will remain crucial for continuing mobility activities for studies, teaching and training and for already existing collaborations such as EuroScholars and Eurolife. These, in conjunction with close research collaborations with several Nordic and European partners, form the basis for future strategic partnerships.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The key to reaching all the goals in the Modernization Agenda is high quality, and high quality cannot be obtained without extensive national and international cooperation within all areas of education.

Participation in the new Programme provides KI with some of the tools required for reaching the goals. We educate students for a global market where individual experience of mobility and cross-border cooperation is essential to provide society with the skilled work force of tomorrow. Mobility goes hand in hand with quality and for KI, as a highly ranked institution nationally and internationally, increased mobility among students, faculty and staff is necessary in order to retain this position. By attracting top students, faculty and researchers from abroad, KI gains influences needed to modernize curricula and to keep up with the highest level of international research. It also provides an international environment for students, faculty and staff not being able to participate in exchange, while those returning bring back new valuable experiences and ideas and contribute to improvement. More joint programmes need to be developed.

KI is depending on government funding for its educational operations and is always seeking to educate more students within the medical and health professions. Health professionals are always in demand in Europe and the rest of the world. To make sure relevant professionals are trained, we cooperate closely with Stockholm County Council, responsible for all publicly-financed healthcare, as well as other health professional organisations. International input from mobile students and faculty is an important factor for quality assurance.

As a strong research institution it is important to make sure that the results from research have an impact on education. To increase funding and to strengthen the link between education, research and business, high quality cooperation with other highly ranked institutions within and outside Europe need to further increase. Innovation and collaboration with companies are also important for KI to convert knowledge within the university into benefit for society. The Science for Life Laboratory, a cooperation between universities in the Stockholm region, is a top research facility within biomedicine, bio imaging and bioinformatics. It provides an internationally competitive resource for multi-disciplinary research with advanced technological infrastructure and is dependent on international input from researchers. Through Karolinska Institutet Science Park AB we offer an attractive and creative environment where innovative companies can grow, in close physical proximity to the academic research and education.

Karolinska Institutet is well prepared to take on the challenge to educate the youth of today and tomorrow, a task that is only possible to achieve with strong international collaborations characterised by quality, long-term perspective and reciprocity.
Endorsement of the application

I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,

certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;

agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;

agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission

Place: Stockholm Name: Anders Hamsten, Prof. Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 14/05/2013

☑ I have read and accept the Privacy statement

Original signature of the legal representative of the institution (as identified in section A.2 above)

Original stamp or seal of the Institution

Karolinska Institutet