

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2014-2020**

### **Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School (IPS)**

IPS main priorities and objectives to be reached by participating in the Erasmus programme are to strengthen international cooperation, particularly by promoting exchange of professors and students in second and third level study programmes with leading universities that offer complementary knowledge and skills. The selection of partners is approved by the Senate after the discussion and recommendation at the Study Commission. The most important selection criteria are quality and complementarity of knowledge and skills. Partners from all geographical areas are welcome.

The mission of IPS is to provide the highest quality postgraduate studies at the master's and doctoral levels through a joint research and educational process in an intensive research, and innovative environment, and to contribute to the strengthening of the role of science and high technologies in the developmental potential of society, thus contributing to the economic strength and harmonic social development. IPS acts as a centre of excellence, which integrates basic research with postgraduate education and development of innovations.

IPS strictly follows non-discrimination policy, which also extends to the Erasmus exchange programmes. Postgraduate studies for Master and Doctorate degrees are oriented towards solving research and development problems which require a multidisciplinary synthesis. The main research-educational strategy of IPS is therefore:

- widening and deepening knowledge, and mastering and development of research methods and techniques, in natural sciences and high technologies, information and communication sciences and technologies, environmental sciences and ecotechnologies, and in management of technologies and innovations – with the aim of supporting excellence in basic research, strategic choice of priority developmental areas, systematic control and permanent innovation of processes and products, increasing economic efficiency and environmental acceptability;
- development of an integral process of thinking which will support multidisciplinary communication, comprehensive definition of problems and their solving in group work, decision making in uncertain conditions, and long-term oriented strategic planning with emphasis on sustainable development.

IPS has established international cooperation with researchers from world leading universities such as the Imperial College London, ETH Zurich, Brown University and many others. Professors from these universities regularly participate in the IPS study process as Visiting Professors.

Although Erasmus program represents only a small part of IPS international exchanges, it is an important instrument for establishment of cooperation with European universities. Within the framework of the Erasmus programme the most important specific activities to be implemented are: exchange of students and staff and development of cooperation with higher education and research institutions. Participation in Erasmus multilateral projects and networks also fits well within the IPS strategy.

In order to ensure the highest quality in the academic mobility activities, all new Erasmus bilateral agreements must be discussed and approved by the IPS Senate following the recommendation of the IPS Study Commission.

IPS uses the credit system for all study activities. IPS credit system is based on the Slovenian national standards compatible with European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) standard. The incoming students are integrated within the regular study process by support of tutors, and for the outgoing students the Senate recognises their credits following the recommendation of the Study Commission.

All IPS study programmes and course descriptions are published on the homepage both in English and Slovenian. All outgoing students receive basic information on Erasmus exchange and individual counseling is offered. Each incoming student is assigned to one of the IPS Professors who serves as the tutor and in addition to supervising his studies also helps with integration. IPS Secretariat offers additional assistance when necessary. All student services are available to incoming students under the same conditions as to regular students. Since all IPS study programmes are also given in English, students are supported in their efforts to become bi-lingual. Staff mobilities are approved by the order of applications received while there are funds available. The staff is encouraged and acknowledged for the mobility, and granted leave from the IPS study obligations for the time of mobility.

International (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training are organised by the IPS Professors, who prepare the project ideas in accordance with the IPS strategy. When the project is approved, IPS looks for synergies with other projects implemented under the Programme during the implementation of the projects.

IPS is expected to contribute to all 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda:

*1) Increasing attainment levels*

Access to international exchange is attractive to smart young people and help to bring them into the formal education process.

*2) Improving quality and relevance*

Cooperation with the Programme is focused on areas where other institutions provide complementary knowledge and skills, and in this way contributes to improved quality and relevance of the education process.

*3) Mobility & international co-operation for quality*

Quality is one of the most important criteria for the IPS Senate to approve the bilateral exchange programmes. All exchange programmes therefore contribute to improved quality of education and research.

*4) Strengthening the “knowledge triangle”*

IPS aims to direct integration and postgraduate studies to create knowledge and promote innovativeness. Within the IPS invited research institutes, industrial and other enterprises contribute their knowledge and innovation capacities for solving developmental problems. IPS partners comprise more than 20 Slovenian industrial companies, which are actively included in master and doctoral studies. International exchange has a potential to strengthen the cooperation with industry, which gets access to international exchange students and Visiting Professors.

*5) Creating the right governance and funding conditions*

Funding within the Programme is expected to contribute to empowerment of the students and professors who gain easier access to international exchange.

Contributions of IPS towards these priorities of the Modernisation Agenda are aligned with the new IPS Strategic Orientations, which have been accepted by the IPS Governing Board on March 22, 2018:

*1) Improving the study process, which focuses on the student, his internal motivation and the culture of creative cooperation for scientific excellence.*

Objectives:

- Strengthening modern pedagogical approaches and equipment.
- Improvement of the quality system of the pedagogical research process.
- Promoting students' proactivity in integration into the developmental activities of the school.
- Developing career competencies in the Career Center and the Alumni Club.

*2) Strengthening the IPS recognition at home and abroad.*

Objectives:

- Encouraging the publications of students and professors in the most excellent international scientific journals.
- Strengthening cooperation with the best universities and creating conditions for joint doctorates.
- Strengthening the international exchange of students and professors.

*3) Strengthen the integration of research and postgraduate education to generate knowledge and promote innovation.*

Objectives:

- Involvement of the school and participating research institutes in strategic industrial research.
- Strengthening cooperation with industrial partners in joint projects, especially within the priority topics of smart specialization.
- Strengthening access to the most modern research equipment in Slovenia and abroad.
- Raising awareness and empowering the school about the importance of commercialization of knowledge.

*Accepted by the IPS Senate on December 11, 2018*