

Erasmus+ Policy Statement

At Antalya Belek University (BU), we are committed to fostering an educational ecosystem that thrives on diversity, innovation, and global engagement. Antalya Belek University (BU) is a non-profit, foundation-supported, state-recognized, financially accessible, and entrepreneurial research university. It was established in 2015 with a vision to form a knowledge of education and research and to interact with and meet the needs of society. BU aims its students and graduates to become individuals who have high international competitiveness and intercultural competencies to thrive in an interconnected society. The mission of BU is to contribute to economic, cultural and social well-being of society through fostering quality, innovation and internationalisation of education and research by enhanced transnational cooperation between education and research institutions, businesses and other stakeholders.

BU believes that internationalization enhances the quality of education and research, civic engagement, and the quality of university life and aims to integrate all these elements attributed to higher education and create an environment that provides multiple opportunities for intercultural exchange to support creativity, learning, and discovery. To this end, BU champions a holistic strategy aimed at enriching our campus with a mosaic of cultures, enhancing student and staff mobility, bolstering international research and collaborations, and laying down the structural foundations necessary to serve a diverse global community. The Erasmus program will be a big contributor to our efforts to increase our visibility and take part in joint research possibilities with partner universities.

Our internationalization policy is a testament to our alignment with the EU's modernization and internationalization agenda for Higher Education. The adoption of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is a strategic move towards realizing our ambitious goals, building upon our past achievements. At BU, we are guided by a multidimensional strategy that not only aims to cultivate a multicultural student body but also to promote mobility and international R&D endeavors vigorously. The Bologna Process is instrumental in this regard, shaping the design of our educational programs to align with EU standards. Internationalisation strategy of BU involves attracting researchers to BU and preventing brain drain; increasing transnational mobility of both outgoing and incoming students through EU and non-EU collaboration agreements; internationalisation of the curriculum through adaptations in line with the Bologna Process; diversifying teaching and research staff through EU and non-EU collaboration agreements; strengthening research and knowledge production through strategic partnerships at both national and international level; establishing stronger research groups by participating in international scientific networks and being part of the global academic community within which to benchmark and share good practices

BU is dedicated to ensuring the mobility of individuals is facilitated with utmost transparency and recognition of qualifications. Our curriculum development is anchored in both European and national qualifications frameworks, with the ECTS system playing a crucial role in credit allocation. We are staunch advocates for the utilization of recognition tools such as ECTS, Europass, and the Diploma Supplement, aiming to fortify an automatic recognition mechanism for credits earned abroad, thereby fostering a seamless academic journey for our students and faculty.

In sculpting our academic offerings, BU infuses an international perspective through rigorous quality assurance processes, thereby enhancing the functionality and sustainability of our programs. The Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area, along with Turkey's National Qualifications Framework, underpins our curriculum design, facilitating student mobility and ensuring transparency and recognition of qualifications. Our academic endeavors are further enriched by vigilant monitoring and regular enhancements based on feedback from our students about their experiences with partner institutions.

BU's aspiration to be recognized as a beacon of entrepreneurial research excellence on the international stage is embodied in our efforts to attract stellar researchers and groundbreaking projects. This strategic objective aligns with our ambition to augment BU and Turkey's international competitive stature. Fostering an environment that encourages international student and faculty influx, cultivating partnerships with globally esteemed institutions, and championing faculty-led international research collaborations are pillars of our strategy to achieve academic excellence and innovation.

Our faculty, comprising distinguished researchers renowned in their fields, are at the forefront of integrating research insights into innovative enterprises. BU places immense value on amplifying our research capabilities and international partnerships, supported by the instrumental role of the Technology Office (TO). TO's initiatives ensure that a significant portion of BU's research is internationally oriented, linking our academic endeavors with industry needs, thereby contributing to regional and global development.

BU embraces an inclusive, multidimensional approach to education, fostering an environment ripe for innovation, cultural diversity, and broad perspectives. We are committed to evolving within a diverse ecosystem, offering myriad opportunities for intercultural exchange and the advancement of creativity, learning, and discovery. International academic cooperation and exchange programs are paramount, with all mobility participants serving as ambassadors of their cultures, enriching both BU and their communities with their unique experiences.

BU's rich tapestry of vocational and undergraduate programs spans the social sciences, humanities, and various technical disciplines, catering to the multilingual and multicultural needs of our student body. With an expanding network of Erasmus+ partnerships, we are steadfast in our mission to forge meaningful academic collaborations across a wide geographical spectrum. Our faculty's extensive international experience is a cornerstone in establishing and nurturing these partnerships, with a growing portfolio of agreements that signify our commitment to academic excellence and international collaboration.

The Erasmus+ program, set to enrich our academic community from the 2024-2025 academic year, symbolizes our dedication to providing equitable, inclusive opportunities for all. BU stands against all forms of discrimination, upholding fairness and gender balance in our mobility programs. **In tandem with our commitment to excellence, BU pledges to be a steward of environmental sustainability, integrating green practices into our campus life and encouraging responsible behavior among our students and faculty. This commitment extends to our pursuit of the "Erasmus Without Papers" initiative, aiming to digitize administrative processes to enhance efficiency and reduce our environmental footprint.

Our ambition to embrace digital transformation aligns with our ecological ethos, seeking to minimize the environmental impacts of our operations and promote sustainable travel options among our Erasmus program participants. Through initiatives like digital event management and advocating for greener travel solutions, we are actively contributing to a more sustainable future. BU's dedication to environmental stewardship is evident in our efforts to recycle, manage waste responsibly, and implement energy-efficient practices across campus, reinforcing our commitment to a healthier planet.

As we forge ahead, our focus on sustainability, innovation, and global engagement will remain at the forefront of our strategic planning. BU is not just aiming to be a part of the global education community but to lead by example in areas of research, sustainability, and international cooperation. Our commitment to these principles is unwavering, as we continue to develop programs and initiatives that reflect our dedication to excellence, diversity, and environmental stewardship.

In conclusion, Antalya Belek University's Erasmus+ Policy Statement is a vibrant declaration of our dedication to creating a dynamic, inclusive, and globally connected academic community. Through our strategic initiatives and commitments, we aim to cultivate an environment that not only nurtures academic and professional excellence but also promotes intercultural understanding, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility. We are excited about the journey ahead and the opportunities that the Erasmus+ program presents, allowing us to further our mission and impact on the global stage.