

Erasmus Policy Statement

The Erasmus Programme has been a central pillar of SDU's educational strategies for more than 25 years. Its importance will only increase in the future as SDU has now embarked on our new strategic journey towards becoming a sustainable university committed to working with all of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SDU's strategic platform is based on a vision of creating value for society by working with the UN's 17 SDGs, and by developing talented individuals who will be able to provide creative and innovative solutions to achieve a sustainable world in the future.

SDU conducts world-class research. In order to retain this position and to realize our mission of contributing to creating a sustainable future, it is of paramount importance that SDU continues to explore international opportunities for collaboration and continues to provide access to more students and staff to the global creation of knowledge.

SDU strongly believes in the value of engaging with people from all around the world as the global challenges – although having a local or regional impact – can only be solved internationally.

We thus strive to strengthen the knowledge collaboration on the UN's SDGs with civil society, NGOs, companies, public organisations, and other educational institutions.

The Erasmus Programme as a key component for the university

With the increased focus and political pledge to creating a European Higher Education Area by 2025, SDU is strongly committed to extending our Erasmus key actions even more in the new programme period.

With around 115 different study programmes across our five faculties, SDU graduates are members of virtually every profession in the international community. Global engagement is thus part of our university's DNA, and participating in the Erasmus Programs provides SDU with an important means of:

- Developing students' and staff members' intercultural competences and global awareness
- Ensuring that students and staff retain a strong international perspective on their particular area of academic specialization
- Developing students' employability and access to a high-skills job market, which is increasingly cross-boundary in nature
- Accessing important international networks, including international research projects for students and staff alike

Universities have always contributed to solving the challenges society faces, and since these are increasingly global in nature with immense regional and local consequences, it is of paramount importance that SDU not only retains but also strengthens its global outreach to get access to and to contribute to important international resources, knowledge, innovation and problem-solving. The Erasmus Programme provides an important platform of access to the global production of knowledge.

On a practical level, through the Erasmus Programme, SDU will:

- increase and strengthen our student and staff mobility, not only quantitatively but also qualitatively
- expand and strengthen our cooperation with major research centres of excellence throughout Europe
- develop more and closer partnerships with important research institutions in the Erasmus partner countries by making use of the KA107 possibilities

High quality educational programmes with Erasmus

The Erasmus Programme is an important component of the realization of SDU's policies of quality assurance of our study programmes. A key goal of our education strategy – as agreed upon with the Danish Ministry of Higher Education, is to

- *Increase the quality of our educational programmes, the learning outcomes and the competitive advantages of our graduates. To this end, SDU is currently developing new modes of delivering higher education by allowing more individually adjusted compositions.*

Having access to a strong international network of Erasmus institutions (in particular through key action 1, but also through our Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree) allows our students a degree of individual specialization which would otherwise not be possible due to economies of scale and available resources.

Similarly, SDU is fully committed to offering academic courses and services of the highest quality to incoming Erasmus students and staff, realizing our own contribution on the path to creating a European Education Area by 2025.