



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

Jönköping University (JU) is a young and responsive university, characterized by a high degree of internationalization, an entrepreneurial spirit and a strong focus on collaboration with community and key stakeholders both locally and globally. These factors create the framework of the JU mission, vision and strategies for 2020-2025, which are decided by the Foundation Governing Board. The vision positions JU as "leading as a collaborative, internationally connected and globally oriented university". The mission "Embedded in the region and engaged worldwide, we bridge knowledge and society, developing the talent of tomorrow" reflects JU's local and global engagement. JU's participation in international cooperation projects as well as learning and mobility opportunities provided by the Erasmus programme contributes to the accomplishment of JU's strategies: *we co-create knowledge and innovate with society; we collaborate across borders; we promote lifelong learning in a diverse and entrepreneurial environment; we research and educate with commitment; we contribute to a sustainable future.* An important key stakeholder for JU is its extensive network of partner universities, spread all over the globe, providing students and staff with numerous possibilities for international experiences. Included in the approximate number of 350 partner universities are JU's Erasmus partners, with whom collaboration is supported and facilitated through the Erasmus programme. In addition, JU's participation in the Erasmus programme is in alignment with the Swedish national strategy for the internationalization of higher education institutions, which aims to improve the quality of higher education and research to contribute to sustainable development, both nationally and globally.

In conclusion, the participation in the Erasmus programme builds on a solid experience of international collaborations and partnerships and reflects a commitment on behalf of JU to develop the university's international profile and to co-create knowledge with key stakeholders — both locally and globally. In addition, it reflects an attempt to collaborate across national borders in relation to education, research, and practice.

Objectives of JU's Erasmus Participation

Participating in the Erasmus programme is critical for the development of JU's internationalization profile and to match emerging societal challenges in an increasingly global and interconnected society. These challenges are complex and cut across disciplinary boundaries and academic specializations, industry and public sector; and they call for solutions and collaborations that bridge these borders. Thus, Erasmus participation is an important means for improving quality in education and research and for achieving the following objectives:

- *Increase psychological and virtual mobility of students, faculty and staff*, contributing to the overall attractiveness of JU for Swedish and international students as well as faculty and staff.
- *Develop intercultural competence of students, faculty and staff*, ensuring that they are prepared and competent for supporting social sustainability across borders, including skills to go beyond and understand the benefit of differences in collaborative endeavors.
- *Establish, increase and strengthen collaborations with selected higher education institutions* outside Sweden, promoting within and cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange, integration of research into education, and impact.
- *Access to and participation in international networks*, which cut across boundaries – national as well as academic – and develop research, education, and professional practice.
- *Increase international collaborations with business, public sector and non-for-profit organizations* to co-create knowledge and innovate.

Erasmus Participation contributes towards modernizing JU

JU's work towards improving and modernizing education will have a great impact through the participation in the Erasmus programme. JU's participation entails being more active, by increasing the participation in the different key actions, promoting integration and inclusive internationalization, implementing digitalization as well as continuing to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainability.

The development and implementation of digitalization will improve teaching and learning techniques, promote digital learning and training opportunities, contribute to the development and implementation of the European Student Card Initiative, build capacity of implementing digital mobility management and improve efficiency needs to ensure quality, equity and performance.

To work actively with promoting and supporting student and staff mobility for all, especially for individuals with fewer opportunities, is crucial in order to provide equal education and opportunities in today's society. The Erasmus programme includes various measures to support the inclusion of all participants, which in turn aids JU to further develop and improve practices within this area.

Social civic competences could be reached through JU's core values, which include to create conditions for cooperation and understanding between nations and groups, create global citizens and to contribute in solving global challenges and

problems. JU counts with initiatives working towards sustainability and diversity linked to the Agenda 2030 goals and the strong focus on environmentally friendly practices within the Erasmus programme further encourages and supports the importance of working with sustainability within internationalization, including mobility programmes. Furthermore, the programme's solid focus on civic engagement among its participants stresses the importance to cut across boundaries and engage in society which is in alignment with the JU strategies.

European Education Area and Policy Objectives

In the vision towards a European Education Area by 2025, where "...learning, studying and doing research would not be hampered by borders" the Erasmus programme is acknowledged as a prominent example of cross-border activities (*Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture, European Commission, 2017*). The JU strategies have a strong emphasis on collaborating across borders, followed by the objective to increase the physical and virtual mobility of JU students, staff and faculty as part of the university's Erasmus participation. Both these factors encourage and support the vision specified in the shared agenda to reach a European Education Area and make learning mobility a reality for all.

JU's participation in Erasmus contributes to a number of other policy objectives as well. First, international collaboration is a key factor to improve education, training, and lifelong learning which is also declared as a shared goal. There is a high percentage of JU students, staff and faculty who participate in mobilities and/or international collaboration projects which could create an impact on the individual, the university, partner universities as well as surrounding society. Second, participating in Erasmus activities is an excellent way to improve language skills and intercultural competences, which are vital for our global society and its citizens. Third, through international collaboration, teachers are equipped with valuable skills for today's multicultural classrooms and experience an increase of academic knowledge, resulting in modernizing the development of curricula and an expected increase of the quality of higher education at JU. Special focus is given to an increase of innovation and digitalization. Fourth, the objective to establish, increase and strengthen collaborations with selected higher education institutions outside Sweden is in line with the shared agenda to create cross-border collaborations that work effortlessly. JU's active participation in the Erasmus programme expects to foster a sense of European identity as part of JU's core value to develop global citizens.

JU aims to boost its participation in the different key actions of the Erasmus programme in collaboration with partner universities. One of the main intentions is to focus on inclusive internationalization by facilitating the participation of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

JU intends to continue exploring the possibility of participating in the European Universities Initiative (EUI). A possible JU participation in EUI would allow the institution to strengthen and develop collaborations, offer an integrated mobility for students, faculty, and staff as well as to develop and offer—in collaboration with partners—innovative and student-centered study concepts. Overall, with the participation in the different key actions of the Erasmus programme, including the EUI, JU intends to promote European values and identity and strengthen European cohesion.

Erasmus Actions and Implementation

Jönköping University (JU) has expressed a mission to be embedded in the region and engaged worldwide, bridging knowledge and society and developing the talents of tomorrow. As such, the university is committed to promoting education and research on a global level, creating value for society and developing JU's vision of a "leading collaborative, internationally connected and globally oriented university".

Jönköping University is one of three Swedish private, non-profit institutions of higher education with the right to award bachelor, masters and doctoral degrees. JU operates on the basis of an agreement with the Swedish Government and conforms to national degree regulations and quality requirements. The university is organised as a non-profit corporate group with Jönköping University Foundation as the parent organisation and six wholly owned subsidiaries: the School of Health and Welfare (HHJ), the School of Education and Communication (HLK), Jönköping International Business School (JIBS), the School of Engineering (JTH), University Services (HS) and Jönköping University Enterprise (JUE). This section will present the activities covered by JU's Erasmus Policy Statement, how they will be implemented and their contribution to the institution in reaching its strategic objectives.

JU will focus on all three Erasmus Key Actions, with the aim of developing international and intercultural skills and knowledge of staff and students, exploring new and innovative educational courses and pedagogical initiatives with key partners from academia and society and actively participating in policy reforms, specifically in the field of education, social inclusion, sustainability and innovation.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning mobility

Within KA1, JU will focus on mobility of students and staff and has outlined several goals related to the institution's vision for collaboration across borders. Those of particular relevance to KA1 are:

- Develop possibilities and structure for international exchange;
- Identify, develop and strengthen relevant international partnerships;
- Offer equal opportunities to participants from all backgrounds, particularly those with special needs or fewer opportunities.

By increasing the number of courses offered in English, JU will be able to offer a wider range of student mobility opportunities and become a more desirable partner for international collaborations. In identifying key partners, JU will consider the level and range of activities that are mutually beneficial. JU pursues partner reviews for quality control in order to identify the need for new partners in specific academic areas or regions of the world. This initiative will include both undergraduate and graduate education and will provide an insight into which partnerships are not of mutual benefit and should be terminated. In addition, the review will inform the development of new strategic partnerships with careful attention given to quality, depth and sustainability. For example, for some programmes at the undergraduate level it is planned to have a minimum of two key partners, depending upon the size of the programmes, aiming to have student and staff mobility with each of the key partners.

Student mobility will be promoted by offering study semesters abroad as well as the possibility for short-term mobility, such as participation in summer schools, courses and traineeships. JU also intends to explore possibilities for blended mobility and integrating it in activities supported by Key Action 1. JU will continue offering the opportunity for incoming students from partner institutions to participate in semesters abroad or to enroll in one of JUs short-term programmes.

Staff will be encouraged to participate in international cross-institutional exchange activities, such as, participation as lecturers and tutors in seminars and teaching modules at partner institutions. This will include mutual learning of new professional and/or pedagogical skills, as well as pedagogical designs for online/offline settings and development of collaborative educational programmes and courses. Programmes at JU will be requested to extend invitations to staff from partner universities to visit JU and participate in teaching and development initiatives.

JU's International Office (IO) will be responsible for coordinating mobility programmes. This will include maintaining constant contact with the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education, dissemination of information to students and staff, application for the different activities, implementation of the granted mobilities, as well as the elaboration and submission of interim and final reports. In addition, IO will provide support to the participants prior, during and after their mobility and carry out dissemination activities.

The following initiatives linked to KA1 will be implemented in order to achieve the objectives related to JU strategies:

- Implementation of a certificate of international merits, which will be provided to students as a recognition of the international experiences that they gain throughout their studies.
- Identification and promotion of international activities that can be planned and carried out together with different stakeholders, such as the municipality or NGOs.
- Encourage involvement of students and staff in activities related to civic engagement and active citizenship.
- International days which aim to raise the awareness and profile of mobility activities at the different JU schools.
- Further develop the Erasmus traineeship opportunities.
- Further develop a structure and pathway to support international mobility opportunities for students and staff who would otherwise have limited opportunity to participate.
- Provide training for staff related to teaching and learning in the multilingual and culturally diverse classroom, including support for development of language skills, (mainly English).
- Promote environmentally friendly practices to all students and staff.
- Promotion of the "global teacher" with the following competences:
 - Knowledge about how to take in the world into the classroom.
 - Knowledge about how to jointly navigate local and global contexts.
 - Knowledge about international policies and frameworks in relevant fields and how to include them in teaching and learning.
 - Knowledge about how to design and organize inclusive teaching and learning for a multilingual and culturally diverse classroom.
 - Knowledge about how to make use of students' multilingual and diverse cultural resources in the classroom.
 - A developed teacher identity that includes awareness of that the profession is international, and that the market is global.
- Provide initiatives for staff to participate in exchange activities, such as:
 - One-to-one lunch encounters, to get to know a visiting colleague and his/her academic environment.
 - Creation of synergy effects in exchange projects through dissemination seminars with colleagues.
 - Widely distributed mentorship among colleagues for visiting international teachers.
 - Offering opportunities for visiting teachers to shadow colleagues and discuss pedagogical challenges.
- Develop more virtual exchange opportunities in which staff from JU and partner institutions collaborate in a virtual environment to provide learning experiences for their students.
- Implementation of the European Student Card Initiative.
- Increase the number of Erasmus ICM projects with strategic partners.

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation among organisations and institutions

By collaborating across borders with organizations, society and partner universities in research and educational initiatives, JU expects to develop, transfer and/or implement innovative practices at the organizational, local, regional, national, European and international levels. JU anticipates these practices to bring positive and long-lasting effects on participating organizations, participants as well as those indirectly connected to the activities.

Within KA2 JU will focus on the following activities:

- A. Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of pedagogical practice,
- B. Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities
- C. Partnership for excellence- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
- D. Partnerships for innovation

Specific activities are described below:

- **Investigate development of open educational resources** – Together with partner universities JU aims to develop a number of open educational resources that are mutually beneficial for students but also accessible to other interested parties. Possible themes related to open resources will be health, welfare, education and communication. Examples include international perspectives on healthcare policies as well as educational policies and education (A - Partnership for cooperation and exchanges of pedagogical practice).
- **Virtual student exchange** – JU is cognisant of the fact that not all students can or wish to participate in mobility activities. At the same time, JU recognizes the importance of preparing students for working in a global society. As part of the goal to increase internationalization at home, JU is committed to developing activities that integrate international and intercultural dimensions into the curricula. For instance, one activity that JU intends to promote as part of KA2, is virtual exchange activities for students. The School of Health and Welfare and the School of Education and Communication, for example, aim to implement virtual student exchange in at least four of their programmes. These virtual exchange activities will be conducted in collaboration with key international partners (A - Partnership for cooperation and exchanges of pedagogical practice).
- **Development and validation of an instrument to assess students' intercultural competences** – In order to assess the quality of Erasmus activities, JU considers it necessary to develop and validate a self-report assessment instrument that can be administered to students participating in international activities. Development of an appropriate instrument is a proposed action that JU will undertake during the period of this Erasmus Charter (A - Partnership for cooperation and exchanges of pedagogical practice).
- JU will investigate possibilities to **share semesters or short courses between partners**, so that one cohort of students study together for one semester/course at one partner university, a second semester/course at another partner university, and, depending on the level of interest, a third semester at a third partner university. Students will take on the role of representatives of their home university and explore differences and similarities across educational systems together with a group of international students (A - Partnership for cooperation and exchanges of pedagogical practice).
- **Practical teaching** is an essential and challenging component of curricula in many of the programmes at JU. As part of KA2, JU will work with key partners on practice-based knowledge exchange initiatives to explore innovative ways of teaching and learning in relation to practical and organizational components of educational programmes. Specifically, in regard to the use of digital resources in analogue-digital contexts and how to include and support diverse student groups (A - Partnership for cooperation and exchanges of pedagogical practice).
- Participating in **the European Universities Initiative**, where new developed clusters of strategic cooperation are built based on sustainability, excellence and values, is well in line with the JU commitment to develop the institution's international profile and to co-create knowledge with key stakeholders both locally and globally. JU has started the process towards an application to the European Universities Initiative by identifying areas that are strategic, interdisciplinary and at the same time can contribute to tackle the critical challenges facing Europe today. Examples of these areas are an aging population, applied artificial intelligence and living with impairment. JU is also planning to leverage on and extend its existing networks and collaborations with other European higher education institutions. The activities ahead will focus on developing and strengthening strategic partnerships, with the aim of offering an embedded and integrated mobility for students, faculty and staff (B - Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities).
- JU will examine the possibilities to have **Joint/double Master Degrees** and partnerships with strategic international partners, with the aim of fostering excellence, innovation, and internationalization at JU. Such an initiative could boost the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area, support the EU's external action in the field of higher education and, finally, improve the level of competence and skills of graduate level students and their employability (C - Partnership for excellence- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees).
- JU will make use of **partnerships for innovation** in order to strengthen graduate level education. JU will implement this through collaboration in specific courses and creation of systematized interfaces between the graduate level and the research level. The international and intercultural dimensions targeted in these initiatives will prepare students both for an international academic career and an international labor market. Moreover, JU will participate in joint project initiatives where JU could, collaboratively with other partner universities, develop the educational curriculum of undergraduate and graduate level programmes in areas such as sustainability, international management, digitalization, entrepreneurship. This action will have a large impact on the renewal and improvement of JU's academic curricula (D - Partnerships for innovation).

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) – Support to policy development and cooperation

JU will target activities to support policy reform related to the fields of sustainability, innovation, health and inclusive education that could lead to initiatives for policy innovation through cooperation with national and international organizations and stakeholder dialogues.

For example, Jönköping International Business School's (JIBS) strategy mentions, as a key long-term development goal, that the school "has an open-door strategy and actively encourages all staff members to be accessible, receptive, and proactive in engaging with experts, interest groups, policy makers and private citizens in learning activities connected to their academic expertise". JIBS has been invited by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis and Sweden's innovation agency Vinnova to perform activities related to policy evaluation. With its three research centres (Centre for Entrepreneurship and Spatial Economics (CEnSE), Centre for Family Entrepreneurship and Ownership (CeFEO), and Media, Management and Transformation Centre (MMTC), JIBS will search for collaboration opportunities with other European universities interested to develop new methodologies for policy formulation, implementation, and assessment, particularly in areas such as sustainability and innovation.

Another example is JU's focus on the promotion of inclusive education and training with an emphasis on disadvantaged learners. Initiated and future actions in the area include support of educational staff in addressing diversity, and reinforcing diversity among educators, as well as development and implementation of innovative methods and practices to foster inclusive education and promote common values. In an initial stage, JU will engage with Key action 3 as an evaluator of different initiatives among European partners, on the basis of the JU research platform "CHILD" (Children, Health, Intervention, Learning and Development) on interventions, participation, learning, health and everyday functioning in children with special needs. In addition, CHILD aspires for its research to continue the organization's established role as an international innovator, particularly regarding the WHO's health classification system ICF-CY's and, by extension, facilitating children's participation in everyday life.

Contribution to JU objectives and strategy

JU's participation in the Erasmus Key Actions is supported by JU's executive team comprising of the President and the Deans of each JU school. Furthermore, the involvement and roles of relevant departments as well as well-established processes aim to contribute to achieving the objectives. As described in each of the key actions above, a broad number of activities are planned, each designed to contribute to the fulfillment of JU's objectives: *increase physical and virtual mobility, develop intercultural competence of students, faculty and staff, establish, increase and strengthen collaborations with selected higher education institutions, access to and participation in international networks, increase international collaborations with business, public sector and non-for-profit organizations*. Focus has been given to inclusive internationalization, digitalization, innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainability. JU's active participation will lead to modernizing the institution as well as to contribute on the goal of building a European Education Area. The JU Erasmus participation is consistent with JU's international profile and the vision to position itself as "leading as collaborative, internationally connected and globally oriented university".

Impact, qualitative and quantitative indicators

JU's participation in the Erasmus programme is anticipated to have an impact on JU's strategies: co-creating knowledge and innovate with society, collaborate across borders, promote lifelong learning in a diverse and entrepreneurial environment, research and educate with commitment and contribute to a sustainable future. The impact will be at the individual, institutional, regional, national, and international levels. The implementation and results of the activities described in the key actions will create impact at the individual level by the development of competences and the offer of equal opportunities for participants, as well as by reaching non-mobile participants through internationalization at home; at the institutional level by the increase of quality at the educational and research levels, at the regional, national and international levels through collaboration with key partners, institutions and organizations in a variety of projects.

JU will monitor the quality of the impact and identify improvement areas through course and programme evaluations, as well as through assessment tools such as on-line surveys, the development of an instrument to assess the student's intercultural competences and the Erasmus participant report. The impact will also be monitored through the quantitative indicators described in the table below.

Target	Indicator	Timeframe
Identify strategic partners for specific programmes	Number of signed partnership agreements linked to specific programmes	By 2023
Increase mobility opportunities for students	Number of programmes offering mobility opportunities Number of students participating	By 2027
Increase mobility opportunities for staff	Number of staff participating in mobility to and from partner institutions	By 2027

Equal frequency of student mobility opportunities to/from JU	Ratio of incoming versus outgoing students	By 2027
Develop/Increase virtual mobility opportunities	Number of virtual mobility opportunities	By 2027
Produce open educational resources	Number of open educational resources	By 2027
Plan joint projects together with stakeholders within Jönköping Municipality	Number of projects	By 2025
Participate in partnerships for innovation	Number of courses and initiatives	By 2027
Develop graduate programmes in collaboration with at least one partner, through joint/double degree and/or shared courses	Number of courses/programmes in collaboration with partners	By 2027
Develop/Increase courses about intercultural knowledge for JU staff	Number of courses	By 2022
Develop and validate an instrument to assess students' intercultural competences	Number of respondents	By 2027
Increase the number of Erasmus ICM projects with strategic partners	Number of Erasmus ICM projects	By 2027
Implement digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative	Management of inter-institutional agreements and online learning agreements, sending and receiving student nominations and acceptances and exchange of transcripts of records related to student mobility	By 2023
Promote environmentally friendly practices in the activities	Number of practices in the activities	By 2027
Encourage the participation of individuals with fewer opportunities	Number of participants	By 2027
Promote civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens	Number of activities	By 2027
Policy development and cooperation initiatives/activities	Number of initiatives/activities	By 2027
Develop and increase student and staff mobility within the European Universities Initiative (EUI)	Number of participants	By 2027
Develop and increase research collaborations with partner universities within the EUI	Number of research collaborations	By 2027

JU's Erasmus Policy Statement supports EU's renewed agenda for higher education and it is part of JU's modernisation and internationalisation strategies. It contributes to inclusive internationalisation in the mobility of students and staff, cooperation in European and international projects and an increase of quality of JU's higher education.