



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

**ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT
(EPS)
2021-2027**

The institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy of the University of Trieste (UniTS) is set out in its 2019-2023 Strategic Plan and is aimed at: (i) pursuing excellence in teaching and research, (ii) enhancing its international role and (iii) constantly improving the quality and efficiency of education for all its students. In compliance with the national University guidelines, UniTS seeks to increase competitiveness at national and international level and is strongly committed to put in practice the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) principles through its institutional activities. UniTS fosters integration and cooperation between universities and research groups, with a special focus on cross-border areas.

The Erasmus Programme plays a crucial role within the Strategic Plan as the pivot for internationalisation, providing enriching opportunities for the cultural growth of our University community in a European inclusive context. UniTS strongly believes that “mobility for all” - in its broadest sense - should become reality; students with caring responsibilities or with special needs, as well as students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, should not be left behind.

The geo-strategic positioning within Central Europe is an added value and enables UniTS to play a hinge role and give voice to the European Higher Education fundamentals at regional level.

In July 2017, the Youth Forum gathered at UniTS to discuss the outlooks of higher education and international mobility especially referred to the Balkan Area. The “Trieste Declaration” was undersigned by 47 institutions which asserted their role as “bridges of transnational dialogue, cooperation and peace by promoting higher education, research and wider social engagement”, committed to “promote regional cooperation in a variety of forms, through the mobility of students, lecturers and staff; through joint programs ...through the transfer of know-how and best practices” and to “encourage young generations to produce innovation, develop critical thinking, acquire transversal skills as global citizens and competences in democratic practice”.

UniTS actively participates in the UNIADRION network, i.e. the Association of Universities of the Adriatic-Ionian Area, aimed at “strengthening international cooperation and favouring the progress of culture, science, training and research”.

Trieste is the host city of ESOF2020 and the European City of Science 2020, thanks to its recognition as the hub of a unique network of international research centres known as the Trieste System, liaised by UniTS through effective partnerships in teaching and training.

UniTS endeavours to offer more international courses taught in English, especially at Master’s and PhD level, so as to encourage student mobility, and foster international cooperation, also collaborating with partner research institutions.

As a medium-term objective, UniTS endeavours to offer new double degree programmes and commits to facilitate undergraduate and graduate students in combining study and work experience to make their transition into the labour market easier.

UniTS offers a wide variety of traineeship and internship opportunities to strengthen soft skills, digital skills and the so-called “21st-century skills”, supported by the Erasmus+ Traineeship programme also funded through participation in consortia.

UniTS plans to implement flexible mobility formats (short or blended) including Virtual Exchange, and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), Globally Networked Learning, as valuable opportunities for intercultural and transnational experiences, complementing or substituting physical mobility.

UniTS has set up an inter-departmental centre for migrations and international cooperation to sustainable development, to raise awareness and take action in these topics.

To achieve these goals, UniTS plans to redesign the organizational support to the internationalization of curricula and strengthen the International Mobility Office, that has always been in charge of the Erasmus implementation since the very inception of the programme.

UniTS takes a global approach to internationalisation, bearing its multicultural identity in mind, that is acting globally while respecting its own cultural traditions, and shares the vision of university alliances as powerful drivers for change in the European Higher Education Area.

UniTS is partner in a project recently submitted under the KA2 action; regardless the outcome of the application, strategic networking is a priority in the institutional agenda. Innovative learning environments, a stimulating interregional knowledge ecosystem, seamless mobility, and a multilingual and inclusive milieu are essential for European Universities to educate highly skilled professionals and experts with intercultural competencies.

UniTS has a large number of institutional international partners, having signed more than 160 Memoranda of Understanding and 70 Executive Research Protocols, as well as 589 Erasmus bilateral agreements, and participates in 12 networks of higher education institutions.

The constant evaluation and monitoring of international exchanges is acknowledged as a fundamental prerequisite to achieve quality and effectiveness and to consolidate partnerships. A special committee will draft basic guidelines to set the indicators and collect the feedback from both outgoing and incoming students.

The following quantitative indicators have been developed in the Strategic Plan to monitor the impact of Erasmus Programme on institutional activities:

Action 1.4 Innovating teaching through international courses to encourage mobility

Indicator 1.4.1 Number of international study courses

Indicator 1.4.2 Proportion of international students enrolled in the first year (BSc, MSc)

Indicator 1.4.3 Proportion of credits earned abroad by students

Indicator 1.4.4 Number of orientation initiatives aimed at international students

Action 1.5 Provide more and more opportunities to students by developing support services internationalization, including through the simplification of procedures and the introduction of new digital certification systems

Indicator 1.5.1 Number of outgoing and incoming students

Indicator 1.5.2 Number of visiting professors and scholars / researchers

Indicator 1.5.3 Number of cooperation agreements for the international mobility of students and teachers

Indicator 1.5.4 Proportion of graduates (BSc, MSc) that have earned at least 12 ECTS abroad during their university career

Indicator 1.5.5 Number of Open badge certifications issued.

Service structures are currently under readjustment and redesign to ensure support and sustainability to the process of transforming educational curricula into knowledge-creating international and multicultural formats between students, staff, entrepreneurs and practitioners.

While the current Strategic Plan has a timeframe of 5 years (2019-2023), UniTS plans to extend the application of the above indicators to the entire period of validity of this accreditation.