



International Policy of the University of Trieste

The University of Trieste chooses its partners according to three main principles:

- on the basis of shared and integrated interests involving courses and programmes;
- in the light of already pre-existing relations between departments or individual researchers, mostly deriving from joint research projects;
- with a view to improving the networking opportunities of University of Trieste (e.g. Santander Group, CIUTI, EMUNI, etc.).

Moreover, one of the priorities of University of Trieste is developing new double and joint degrees and past experiences show that the implementation of double and joint degrees benefits greatly from the prior Erasmus Agreements.

The geographical areas of interest of University of Trieste in terms of student exchange programmes include EU-Countries: in order of importance, mention can be made of Spain, Germany and France for outgoing students; Spain, France, Turkey, Poland and Germany for incoming students. An important role is also played by the Central Europe with student exchange programmes involving Croatian and Serbian universities from the Alpe Adria University network and participating in the Danube Initiative.

Outside Europe student exchange programmes are being strengthened with the USA (University of Central Oklahoma, Appalachian State University, Georgia Regents University College of Dental Medicine) Australia (Sidney and Melbourne) and Vietnam (Hanoi). University of Trieste has been a member of the International student Exchange Program (ISEP) since 2004.

All target groups are involved (Bachelor, Master and doctoral students as well as teaching and administrative staff). The most important objective for the administrative staff is the exchange of information about good practices and services supplied to outgoing and incoming students. The most important objectives for the teaching staff are:

- starting good relationships with partner Universities so that students exchange agreements actually lead to continuous and balanced flows of incoming and outgoing students;
- giving presentations and lectures to students at the host university in order to raise their interest in the possibility to participate in an exchange programme and attend courses at the University of the visiting professor;
- paving the way for double/joint degree initiatives by discussing syllabus arrangements and their mutual recognition.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

The most important objectives for students include:

- first-cycle (undergraduate) programmes: living and studying in a different environment; improving the knowledge of a foreign language; receiving hints and suggestions for postgraduate courses; training in a different work environment; establishing fruitful relationships for further work experiences;
- second-cycle (postgraduate) programmes: living and studying in a different environment; improving the knowledge of a foreign language; receiving hints and suggestions for third-cycle (doctoral) courses; training in a different work environment; establishing fruitful relationships for further work experiences and, possibly, after having completed their training programmes (e.g. Erasmus Placement), working for an employer abroad; preparing their final dissertation with the help of teaching staff providing additional competences and skills;
- third-cycle (doctoral) programmes: preparing their PhD dissertations in collaboration with researchers providing additional competences and skills; working in laboratories in research centres or companies offering alternative/innovative technologies.

This kind of mobility programmes is supported by grants assigned within the ESF framework in collaboration with the Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Government. University of Trieste is currently not involved in short cycles (IFTS and ITS as defined under <http://eurashe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/SCHE-in-Europe-long-version-with-cover140311.pdf>).

University of Trieste currently has double degrees with the Universities of Regensburg, Paris V and VII, Ljubljana, Lippe-Lemgo. The Double Degree Agreements with the Monash University (Clayton, Australia) and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Leuven, Belgium) have already been signed by the Rector of the University of Trieste and are about to be signed by the relevant Academic Authorities of the foreign Universities. The University of Trieste is working towards new joint/double degrees on the basis of SEA-Agreements and Erasmus-Agreements.

A teaching cooperation programme is also in place with Tirana (Albania) in the bio-medical engineering sector.

The strategy of University of Trieste for the organization and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme builds on pre-existing cooperation initiatives based on:

- partnerships with individual Universities;
- participation in University networks, e.g. Alpe Adria Rector's Conference and the Danube Rector's Conference (the first International DIANET School was held in 2013; see <http://www.units.it/vedinews/index.php?id=3573&tiponews=2>) and the Santander Group;
- contacts of individual University of Trieste researchers working on teaching projects; University of Trieste covers the costs of the first mission of project initiators.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

To encourage the enrolment of foreign students, some University of Trieste programmes are taught in English: one at Bachelor level; four at Master level; five at Doctoral level.

University of Trieste has always hosted a large number of visiting professors, often in collaboration with other research centres based in Trieste (e.g. ICTP and SISSA).

Visiting professors mostly teach in English and University of Trieste provides accommodation.

University of Trieste supports the Erasmus Student Network.

In 2012 University of Trieste and the Municipality of Trieste started a cooperation programme to welcome incoming students. For similar initiatives the University also relies on the Welcome Office of the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. University of Trieste has accepted to participate in an Erasmus Mundus Project submitted by the University of Lund to host students from India in all three cycles.

University of Trieste plans to submit an Erasmus Mundus project with Hanoi University (exchange and resident students from Vietnam are already attending courses at University of Trieste).

Job training programmes benefit from contacts with EU-based companies, with new proposals submitted by applicant students.

The beneficiaries of grants (both students and teaching staff) are selected by a dedicated commission.

All related activities are supported by the International Office, with a staff of 6 persons.

Strategic objectives for the modernisation of the University of Trieste

Internationalisation

For graduate and postgraduate students, the most important international mobility programme currently in place at the University of Trieste is Erasmus Studio. Students are expected to select courses abroad that complement the courses offered at the University of Trieste. Returning students can disseminate information on their experience in terms of teaching and studying styles so as to contribute to new programmes at the University of Trieste, possibly in collaboration with EU-Universities. Teaching staff will visit potential partner universities. Their teaching experience abroad may encourage foreign students to apply for a study exchange period or enrol at University of Trieste.

Strengthening the link between university and the job market

Erasmus Placement is one of the most successful programmes of the University of Trieste. A university committee assesses students' motivation and the consis-



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

tency of their syllabi with host organizations. In light of their greater knowledge of a foreign language and culture, students with working experiences abroad are more likely to find career opportunities in Italy. Further developments may involve submitting a Leonardo project to encourage work experiences of graduates and improve their employment prospects.

Enhancing the quality of teaching and research

Thanks to its collaboration with a large number of local research institutions, the quality of teaching at the University of Trieste is judged to be very good (<http://valmon.disia.unifi.it/sisvaldidat>) and **University of Trieste** ranks high in Italian and international rankings (e.g. the Times Higher Education Survey). Enhanced participation in Erasmus Studio programmes by researchers, students and administrative staff would provide opportunities for improvement. Continued participation in the Programme would be one of the most important drivers of quality for research and teaching. The constant exchange of students and staff could contribute to solving remaining problems (e.g. the recognition of non-EU degrees). Establishing new joint and double degrees remains a priority.

Enhancing Technology Transfer

University of Trieste translates research into business opportunities through numerous spin-off companies founded by its researchers. To date, University of Trieste is one of the first Universities in the world publishing descriptions of available technologies, explicative videos and evaluation reports. University of Trieste was also the first Italian university to join the iBridge Network in the U.S.. Participation in the Programme may open new horizons, particularly in the framework of Erasmus Mundus.

Enhancing the attraction of non-governmental funding

With 6 million Euros received within the VIIth Framework Programme, University of Trieste is among the top EU-funded universities in Italy. The BA course in Economic Management and Finance, taught in English, is financed by private sponsors. Participation in the Programme (mainly through the implementation of Erasmus Placement, ERASMUS Mundus and Leonardo initiatives) is likely to improve the attraction of private funds.