

## Erasmus Policy Statement

The overall strategy of Høgskolen Kristiania - Ernst G Mortensens Stiftelse (Kristiania University College, KUC) includes internationalisation as an integrated part of education, research and artistic development. Moreover, internationalisation is an important asset in securing the highest academic standards of the institution. The Erasmus+ programme in this respect is considered to be one of our most valued tools.

An overall objective of Kristiania University College is becoming the first private university of Norway within the year 2030. Thus, one main pillar will be applying an international perspective to teaching, research and artistic development.

All study programmes at Kristiania University College must include an international dimension through international student and staff exchange, international research and artistic cooperation and memberships in international networks, organisations, as well as participation in competitions, seminars, conferences, fairs, study visits and guest lecturing.

This is the true for the international strategies of all four schools:

- School of Arts, Design and Media
- School of Health Sciences
- School of Communication, Leadership and Marketing
- School of Economy, Innovation and Technology

International partners of Kristiania University College must have relevant academic profiles, hence providing opportunities for mobility, research and artistic development of the highest standards, both in Europe and world-wide. The Norwegian Ministry for Higher Education and Research support the goals of the European Education Area, including that spending time abroad to study and learn should become the norm, not the exception, and that higher education qualifications increasingly should be recognized across the EU. Kristiania University College will work towards these goals by among other things increasing substantially the amount of students who have a period abroad.

Kristiania University College operationalizes its overall strategy in three strategies for the period 2020 - 2025: [Strategy for Education](#), [Strategy for Research and Artistic Development](#) and [Strategy for Cooperating with Working Life](#). In all three strategies, the Erasmus+ programme plays an important part. For instance, one objective for KUC is to prioritize the development of a strong academic environment within the disciplines in which we will offer doctoral programs in the future, and further develop research groups within relevant subject areas (Objective 3.1.1, Strategy for Research and Artistic Development) and also enter into strategic cooperation agreements with other knowledge institutions for establishment and implementation of doctoral programs (objective 3.6.6, Strategy for Research and Artistic Development). This ensures research relevance, research-based teaching, and makes it possible to establish PhD programmes. Several of our strategic goals in our Strategy for

Research and Artistic Development mention international external financing, international relations and Erasmus+.

To be able to do establish stronger research programmes it is essential for our academic groups to have strong collaborations with other research environments, nationally and internationally. The Erasmus+ programme will enable us to make such connections through mobility and collaboration projects, and in this sense work as a stepping stone to broad international networks and international collaborations for our employees and research environments. As for the student experience, we actively work to ensure that, in the future, a much larger part of the student population will be mobile. Here, the Erasmus+ programme is our most important asset.

### Participation in Erasmus Key Actions

Kristiania University College aims to take part in Key Action 1 and Key Action 2.

Mobility for individuals is an important part of our overall institutional strategy and for respective strategies for education, for research and artistic development and for cooperation with working life. All our study programmes have mobility options for outgoing study mobility. Staff and teaching mobility is highly encouraged. In many study programmes we also have many successful examples of Erasmus traineeships. We are continually working on expanding the course offering in English for incoming Erasmus students, and will offer this every semester.

Concerning KA2, Kristiania University College plans specifically to take part in Partnerships for Innovation. In the past, we have only participated in a few such actions, but the School of Health has already applied for a strategic partnership in the future and we see more application being developed. There is unused potential here to create and contribute to innovation and establish good collaborative constellations. KUC plans to encourage and facilitate that all the four Schools will apply for such actions in the coming years.

The Department for Research Administration and Internationalisation will make sure to inform the academic staff about upcoming calls and opportunities. In addition to gaining experience in Partnership for Innovation and Partnerships for Cooperation, KUC plans to participate in the other aspects of KA2 by the end of the upcoming Erasmus+ period, both the European Universities initiative and the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees. This will likely be towards the end of the period. KUC has the goal to be Norway's first private university, and collaborating with similar universities in Europe would highly increase KUC's chances to meet our goal.

### Erasmus+: Impact and targets

Kristiania University College aims to increase substantially outgoing and incoming exchanges, staff and teaching mobility and traineeship mobility. According to our institutional strategy,

we will by 2025 have mobility at least on the same level as the national average, which involves a doubling in percentage of students on mobility, from 6-7% today to at least 15% in 2025.

Goal numbers for students on exchange can be represented in this way:

- 2022: 10% of students on exchange
- 2023: 12% of students on exchange
- 2024: 14% of students on exchange
- 2025: 16% of students on exchange

There are several reasons behind this strategic decision:

- Mobility and cooperation across borders will be valuable for benchmarking and a contribution to academic and pedagogic capabilities.
- Students and lecturers meeting colleagues from different cultures abroad bring back valuable experiences to the learning environment of Kristiania University College.
- Teachers and researchers will receive input to their research, teaching methods, student counselling and evaluation of students' work.
- Mobility brings the participants into networks that are valuable for their work as teachers and researchers, and gives the students increased possibilities for international careers in their chosen field.
- Mobility gives valuable cultural experiences as well as language training, which again may lead to more understanding of differences, but also discoveries of common values across national borders and academic traditions.
- Kristiania University College aims to be one of the most attractive institutions in Scandinavia for students in selected fields, hence increasing the number of applicants from abroad and additionally encouraging more mobility among students and staff alike are all important measures of successful internationalisation.

In addition, all mobilities should be, as far as possible, of high value. This is measured by the formal and informal reports provided by students/staff after the mobility. For students, satisfaction with exchange programmes is also measured annually.

Within KA2, we are already involved and applying for programmes similar to the Partnerships for Cooperation and Partnerships for Innovation. The Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees and Europe Universities are initiatives that we aim to come back to closer to the end of the programme period, as part of our own goal to become Norway's first private university.

Our increased participation in KA2 would give KUC a boost in competence, experience and networking that can be used to also become more successful in other EU programs such as Horizon Europe. The networks, results and outputs that occurs as a result of collaboration in the field of education can be also transferred to the research arena.