

Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020

Erasmus Policy Statement

By signing the Erasmus+ Charter in October 2017, Université Paris-Saclay committed to publishing its international Erasmus Policy Statement which includes three sections outlined below.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees.

Given that it is a research university, the international strategy set out by Université Paris-Saclay, whose aim is in particular to position the ecosystem as one of the twenty global destinations of reference for international students and researchers, focuses on two main areas: the establishment of high-level partnerships with partners of comparable rank, which open cooperation to all its members, and the implementation or development of existing partnerships already established by member institutions. The challenge lies in defining which frameworks of cooperation will offer the highest added value for the institutions as a whole, all the while building on their historical partnerships, and establishing a framework to reinforce cooperation schemes of excellence in Research, Education and Innovation. On the basis of existing partnerships, the idea is to target new world-class partners, or partners who answer the specific needs of certain Université Paris-Saclay member institutions (e.g. thematically targeted partners). Université Paris-Saclay has made the strategic decision to set up call for projects in order to welcome the best international researchers in chairs of excellence with the aim to reinforce and/or broaden its ability to cooperate with the best institutions abroad, according to a bottom-up approach. The links forged by researchers and certified by research organisations such as international associated laboratories (*LIA - laboratoire international associé*) and international research groups (*GDRI - groupe de recherche internationale*) of the CNRS, also provide a frame of reference that enables the International Group to establish structured education agreement proposals with renowned international partners, that are examined and validated by the Council of Members and the Board of Directors of Université Paris-Saclay. The development of Master's double-degree agreements, in particular Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, supported by an ambitious scholarship programme, is, as such, a priority for Université Paris-Saclay, as is that of thesis co-supervision agreements, in that they constitute a vital teaching tool towards and by research, essential to the strengthening and, frequently, the initiation of international partnerships.



In an environment that is still undergoing changes, Université Paris-Saclay draws on the existing Erasmus partnerships of its member institutions who operate the courses for which it has received accreditation. By 2020, Université Paris-Saclay will ensure that the institutional agreements established via MoU or thesis co-supervision agreements will add value to the Erasmus agreements set up by its operating institutions, as well as increase both the number and the quality of exchanges for students and staff alike engaged in the courses. One of the priorities of Université Paris-Saclay is to provide all its students with an international experience as well as international practices (see, for instance, the research grant programme). The establishment of double degrees stems from a concerted process between Université Paris-Saclay members. The vast majority of Master's courses involve directors of studies that are affiliated to at least three member institutions. Proposals originate from the directors of studies and their partners, and are discussed within the Schools of Université Paris-Saclay, each School being represented by an international point-of-contact/correspondent.

The support of Erasmus+ actions implemented by its member institutions is in line with the overall strategy of Université Paris-Saclay, which aims to promote the academic excellence of its members and to support the best practices in the blended Education-Research-Innovation approach. As such, Université Paris-Saclay actively promotes its training programmes, including within short programmes (“Summer Schools”), and broadly communicates on these programmes, on its website, via direct mailing campaigns and in particular in the course of its missions abroad and representations at international exhibitions.

Support of Erasmus+ actions will rely on the principle of the lever effect and will be awarded on a competitive basis. Financial support committed by Université Paris-Saclay for the benefit of its members will be provided following calls for proposals which will be jointly selected by the Training (Schools) and Research (departments) units. Terms and conditions will be defined with a view to facilitate the establishment of consortia, enhance the quality of proposals for Erasmus+ projects, and enable the implementation of new Master's double-degree agreements.

One of the strategic priorities developed by Université Paris-Saclay aims at integrating the Innovation dimension and opening the networks of universities to industrial partners. Adding value to education and research, promoting student entrepreneurship, and supporting the development of start-ups – all these are among the priorities defined by Université Paris-Saclay to build an ecosystem which is favourable to the innovation policy and the development of industrial activities.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.

Within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, the policy set forth by Université Paris-Saclay aims at helping member institutions to broaden the fields of application of this programme. The role of Université Paris-Saclay is to promote the Erasmus+ actions operated by its members and, on this basis, establish together with its members new international partnerships that benefit from the blended Education-Research-Innovation approach which is specific to Université Paris-Saclay.



In support of this strategy towards furthering partnerships, Université Paris-Saclay offers financing or joint financing instruments dedicated to the development of new research projects with a strong international dimension (ERC contracts & H2020 programme support), the hosting of the best international researchers, students, and doctoral students (both incoming and outgoing international Master's scholarships), the establishment of Chairs of excellence, the joint financing of doctoral fellowships (e.g. Chateaubriand, etc.), and support in the promotion of student entrepreneurs (UPSaclay Challenge Startup).

Every new action to the benefit of a structure or a person will serve as a lever that will foster the roll out of international partnerships based on a selection process through excellence, with countries within the Programme or other partner countries.

Through its mission of coordination and support of laboratories and projects of excellence, Université Paris-Saclay will be able to identify the needs for changes in its education programmes. The Doctoral and Master' degrees delivered by the University are in line with these new partnerships. The gradual introduction of undergraduate degrees (*Licence*) accredited by Université Paris-Saclay (first undergraduate degrees in 2017-2019) will expand the education offering and open new perspectives for partnerships to add value to integrated higher education studies, in particular with partner countries outside the Programme.

Please explain the projected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve.

1. Increase qualification levels to train the graduates and researchers that Europe needs:

Located at the heart of an innovation ecosystem, fuelled by major industrial groups (Peugeot, Thalès, Danone, EDF, Airbus,...) and SMEs (1,000+), Université Paris-Saclay benefits from a unique ability to welcome and train its students to careers in research, education, and entrepreneurship.

Drawing on these strengths and thanks to a strong network of Erasmus partnerships established by its member institutions, Université Paris-Saclay will reinforce its position as a key player of the European Higher Education and Research Area (EHERA) drawing on its diversity, the reorganisation of its training maps (renewed academic fabric in constant evolution via the 350 Master's tracks and 20 doctoral schools), and the best practices used within the networks of excellence (EMJMD, Erasmus Mundus, ITN,...).

This will enable student mobility, offering students an international experience and facilitating their employability. In fact, mobility offers recipients the essential skills (linguistic, intercultural, etc.) to facilitate their access to the labour market.

Université Paris-Saclay also aims at helping the players of education to use innovative practices (calls for proposals).

2. Enhance the quality and relevance of higher education:

Thanks to its participation in the Erasmus+ programme, Université Paris-Saclay will be able to reinforce its links with the best European players of higher education and benefit from the networks of academia and/or the private sector. This will enable to university to strengthen its international attractiveness by certifying training programmes of quality. This is true both for



the existing training offering as well as of that to come (Bachelor's degrees soon to be offered by Université Paris-Saclay).

3. Enhance quality thanks to transnational mobility and cooperation:

The international ambition of Université Paris-Saclay is clear. It is reflected by our will to help students have an experience in a foreign country in order to discover other methods of work and to acquire new skills. With its participation to the Erasmus+ programme, Université Paris-Saclay will be able to develop new partnerships with first-grade institutions, thus reinforcing the excellence of its research, and its attractiveness.

In the same way, the participation in new collaborative research projects within an international framework is key and will contribute to the momentum launched by Université Paris-Saclay.

4. Connecting higher education, research, innovation and companies to foster excellence and regional development:

At the heart of the Université Paris-Saclay project lies the strong interaction between academia, research and industry. The University has been established in a region that brings together large groups and innovative SMEs. Together, these form the Paris-Saclay cluster which is among the 8 most important innovation clusters in the world. As such, it plays a crucial role in the structure and layout of the Ile-de-France region (Grand Paris, Plan Campus, etc.) in close connection with the *Etablissement public d'aménagement Paris-Saclay* (EPAPS – public development agency). In order to take advantage of its environment, Université Paris-Saclay promotes education through research and interdisciplinary projects that are drivers of innovation.

One of the priorities of Université Paris-Saclay is also to highlight research and entrepreneurship education. It is important, as such, to train students and teachers-researchers so that they are able to grasp the social and economic challenges of tomorrow, to give them a taste for entrepreneurship, and to establish education programmes in connection with public and private partners in order to favour the employability of students. With this in mind, the University has developed several tools: entrepreneurship education, Challenge Startup, PEIPS network (*Pôle Entrepreneuriat et Innovation* entrepreneurship and innovation cluster of Université Paris-Saclay) to support students who have a project and wish to develop it.

5. Enhance governance and financing:

Université Paris-Saclay includes a variety of higher education institutions, whose mission and size can differ significantly. This richness of diversity explains the strong impact that is expected from the pooling at the level of Université Paris-Saclay of the higher education institutions' experiences in terms of governance and financing. The complementary roles taken on both by Université Paris-Saclay (accredited for Master's and doctoral degrees) and its member institutions are reflected in the types of Erasmus projects developed and managed at every level. The pooling of best practices and the strong collective will to increase efficiency will translate into an increase in the number of projects submitted and financed.

