

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

The University of Technology Nuremberg (UTN) is a newly founded Public State university in the heart of one of Bavaria's key industry and innovation regions.

Established in 2021 with the ambition to set a role model for modern higher education and a distinct focus on artificial intelligence, we have initiated an innovative teaching and learning concept, and integrated research on AI at the core of all our programs. UTN's strategic choice of English as a medium of instruction, its excellent staff-student-ratio serves as a further distinguishing point that will enhance the learning experience of both UTN students and visiting students through future Erasmus+ student mobility partnerships. Participation in the Erasmus+ Program will open doors for us as a new university to engage with European (and global) institutional partners. With UTN's guiding principles of an interdisciplinary, international, digital and sustainable university at its core, we aim to collaborate with the best in the field and other emerging universities to contribute to cutting-edge research and teaching in advanced technology use for society.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Program is vital for achieving our internationalization goals. First, it will enable us to develop deep long-term partnerships with an initially small group of partner institutions whose mission, focus and research align (e.g., mobile robotics with AI research). Second, participation in the Erasmus+ Program will further help us foster a diverse and inclusive academic community through first-hand experience and people-to-people links of our academic and professional staff to partner institutions initially in Europe with scope to extend to partner countries in future calls. Finally, as a newly founded university, established as a role model for modern higher education with an innovative teaching and learning concept, building a strong network of international partners through the Erasmus+ Program will greatly enhance our ability to achieve these ambitious objectives and establish ourselves as a leading institution in AI research and education in collaboration with European partners.

As a small emerging university, we currently aim to participate in the Program's Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals for all five mobility categories, however with a focus on early career researcher mobility. Our currently small cohorts of students will only allow for individual student mobility, but not larger scale exchange programs at this point. UTN further hopes to participate in Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organizations and institutions in the program lines of Partnerships for Cooperation, Partnerships for Innovation and Alliances for Innovation should the opportunity arise in the current Program funding period.

Strategic Initiatives

The University of Technology Nuremberg (UTN)'s innovative and internationally focused programs reflect the university's core principles of an interdisciplinary, international, digital and sustainable university and emphasize advances in artificial intelligence and related technologies to benefit society.

As a newly founded university, UTN is in the process of developing first international institutional partnerships with an initially small number of institutions. We are committed to setting up initiatives to support student and staff mobility, including personal and virtual mobility options. The initial focus will be on academic and professional staff mobility, including mobility for early career researcher/students due to the current small scale of our study programs and the need to establish

and strengthen institutional ties prior the introduction of student mobility programs on coursework study level, which we aim to include in the next cycle of Erasmus+ programs.

Our strategic goals include the following aspects:

- The UTN teaching and learning concept prominently embeds initiatives to promote and enhance diverse learning experiences including a Learning in Transformation project at the core of our Master's programs that allows for international experiences and interdisciplinary collaboration in AI-centered teaching programs
- Support for the university's international community is a core element of our understanding and commitment to a culture of belonging. The university provides extensive and personalized support for our international students, researchers and visiting staff, including orientation programs, individual welcome services support advising on visa requirements, relocation services, housing, family support, and the provision of language courses. A professional infrastructure to assist with international mobility and collaboration will be further developed and continuously improved to support international mobility and partnerships with key institutional partners.
- UTN strives to actively participate in international networks and consortia to enhance research and educational collaborations, particularly with technology focused partners and study programs. An additional focus in our collaborations and partnerships will be engagement in transfer activities with industry and non-profit organizations to align our research with societal needs and promote innovation, with AI for society as a key area of focus. Partnerships in research, education and industry ensure a best possible outcome and impact of our focus on artificial intelligence research and application for the benefit of society.

Furthermore, the university is committed to removing barriers to mobility for disadvantaged groups and to promote inclusivity, with a particular emphasis on early career researchers in our initial mobility programs. Sustainability and inclusivity are guiding principles in our approach within our own university community and in engaging with institutional partners.

For mobility programs, Nuremberg has a natural advantage as a transport hub easily connected to European rail and bus networks and the university is committed to promoting and utilizing sustainable mobility solutions for staff and student mobility travel as well as developing and promoting digital learning exchanges where possible. With diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education lived and fostered as a core element of our university community, UTN's internationalization strategy explicitly supports wellbeing and belonging for all, with a focus on fostering a diverse research community through both, internationalization at home initiatives and outbound mobility programs.

Our institution's participation in the Erasmus+ Program is pivotal in achieving these goals, as it will empower us to forge valuable partnerships, advance our AI initiatives, and establish ourselves as an exemplary institution in modern, international education.

Objectives

The University of Technology Nuremberg (UTN) is deeply committed to inclusive internationalization aiming to make high-quality education and research accessible to all and creating a diverse community.

UTN's objectives are:

First, we aim to create an atmosphere where a diverse student body and staff can thrive. The university has set itself an ambitious goal to attract international talent globally and has set the foundation for a robust infrastructure of strong support and welcome services and offering language training in both English and German for all members of the university community. UTN is a university environment with English as medium of instruction for all courses and equal language to German in research and administration, crucial for attracting and retaining international talent and providing academics and students from partner institutions with a welcoming environment.

Second, with our emphasis on AI research, we aim to attract leading experts and promising students in this cutting-edge field and providing them with access to one of Germany's key innovation and industry regions. Building a network of strong partnerships with institutions and organizations equally engaged in technological advances for society around the world is essential to achieving our ambitions of creating a truly international university environment.

To achieve these objectives, the Erasmus+ Program will be instrumental in establishing first institutional mobility partnerships and a network of partners to build our reputation as an emerging leader in AI research. International student, professional/administrative staff and academic mobility will be a crucial instrument for our institution to engage in meaningful exchanges with an initially small group of select partner institutions. We will encourage both outbound and inbound mobility for students and staff, ensuring a rich exchange of knowledge and cultural experiences. UTN is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art professional support for internationalization efforts. This includes building internal expertise, the introduction of administrative processes to support mobility, and offering comprehensive services to facilitate international activities including the expansion of existing welcome support services to international visitors on mobility programs.

To summarize, the University hopes to have set up a small number of mobility partnerships by the end of the 2027 funding period and commenced with student (3rd cycle) and staff mobility with at least two Erasmus+ partner universities.

Impact

Participation in Erasmus+ mobility programs will have a positive impact on UTN, both on an institutional and individual level.

On an institutional level, participating in Erasmus+ Program activities provides the opportunity to set up first mobility partnerships as an emerging European university and paving the way to enabling mobilities for all. Access to the Erasmus+ Program will build and strengthen the university's international profile and actively support university's mission to become a partner of choice for collaboration with likeminded partner institutions to contribute to cutting-edge research and teaching in advanced technology used for society. The award of an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education will increase UTN's international visibility and attractiveness as a partner.

On the personal level, participation in the Erasmus+ Program will allow individual participants of student as well as academic and professional staff mobility programs to gain personal experience in working and studying in a different European university environment and build strong personal relationships with international colleagues. Central to the idea of strengthening the European Education Area in the world, the high percentage of UTN's international students and staff gaining access to the program will enhance their experience of Europe as a strong region for (international) education.

In summary, as an emerging institution with an innovative teaching and learning concept at its core, UTN can contribute to improving quality and equity in education and training through sharing best practice examples and ideas with partner institutions, providing inbound staff mobility participants with insights into the university's approach to interdisciplinary, international and digital learner-centered education.

By the end of the 2027 funding period, UTN will have established a minimum of two Erasmus+ partnerships with European partner institutions and commenced student and staff mobility with them. Emphasis will be on PhD student and staff mobility for the first programs due to the currently small coursework student cohort. UTN has identified a number of potential partner universities and is in the process of commencing collaboration talks including potential collaboration in the Erasmus+ program. As an initial goal, UTN is proposing two reciprocal mobility places each for student and staff mobility with each selected partner institution per year.