



YALOVA UNIVERSITY

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Yalova University (YU) founded in 2008 has already started to compete with other longer standing universities with its 13350 students, 528 academicians and 312 administrative staff. Our university slogan is " An international university is founded in Yalova". This motto indicates our willingness to be open for all sorts of international cooperations. Yalova University has the vision of becoming one of the most prestigious universities of Turkey through making contribution to the development of the sciences, humanities and technology serving not only academia but also the community at large. YU is fully engaged with the Bologna Process and prepared its strategic plan as to serve the Bologna Process. In order to do it, the university has established " International Relations Office ". Also hundreds of bilateral agreements have been signed with Erasmus Universities. It gives utmost importance to its international relations due mainly to its dedication Europe-wide programmes implemented to ensure high degree of quality. As a part of strategic plan, the main objectives of Yalova University are development and assurance of high quality research and teaching, promotion of students and staff mobility, promotion of international ties with partner institutions and contribution to social, cultural and economic life of the region. YU committed to increasing excellence in teaching and research and will continue to foster links with leading research institutions in Europe and beyond, to stimulate research through exchange of academic staff and to provide the widest educational experience for students through study in leading international institutions. Mobility, supported by Erasmus, will promote the internationalisation of Yalova University and contribute to its modernisation and to improvements in quality and finally, paves the way for the Bologna Process.

YU plans to:

- ✓ Increase the mobility of students, academic and administrative staff,
- ✓ Establish relations with higher education institutions throughout Europe,
- ✓ Develop curriculum in cooperation with similar institutions in Europe,
- ✓ Join European academic networks promoting the internationalization of education,
- ✓ Participates in international projects, which enhance quality , develop a European Dimension and foster multinational teaching and partnership.

Our most important objective is to improve the quality of education and make necessary modifications to meet the accepted standards of Europe. The transfer and dissemination of knowledge is our other major objective. Therefore we intend to send as many students and staff as possible. We also want to attract hardworking students and academic staff to improve the quality of our programme. In order to fulfill that, we have Business Administration and International Relations Departments all in English. Engineering faculty offers 30% of their courses in English. We urge each department to enhance and/or modify their curriculum as well as their ECTS credits according to the feedback received from the incoming and outgoing exchange student. International Office encourages all department to increase the numbers of bilateral agreements in order to provide more mobility opportunities. YU has compulsory English prep school for many programmes. Our students know that the lack of English will lower their chances to benefit from the Erasmus Programme. Thus, they are highly motivated and eager to learn English. We encourage also our staff to use programme as well. We notify our academic and administrative staff about the funds allocated by the National Agency. The international experience gained through studying/teaching gives a huge boost to self confidence and enables to develop new skills, learn and share new ideas , explore best practices. These individual achievements provided by Erasmus Programme will contribute to reach our institutional objectives.

Erasmus+ Programme aims to strengthen quality and the European dimension in higher education, foster mobility and improve transparency and recognition of studies across Europe. Not only erasmus provides mobility grants to students, academics and administrative staff but it also supports other activities to enhance the European dimension of studies, such

as intensive programmes, the development of curricula or thematic networks. Our students who attended Erasmus Mobility boost their employability skills and the majority of them say that this mobility is highly beneficial in finding their first job. Their mobilities increased their technical, interpersonal and intercultural skills and competences, as well as their self confidence, ability to achieve goals, and social and cultural openness. Erasmus+ students also embrace new learning methods and more students plan to continue on to higher levels of learning than non erasmus students. Our staff who take part in an Erasmus Mobility told that they improved their intercultural understanding, transversal and social skills through the programme and hold strongly positive views about the Europe. In the coming Erasmus period, we are planning to increase the numbers of students/staff who benefit from this programme. We also aim to take part in more strategic partnership projects in the coming period. YU believes that strategic partnership aims to support the development, transfer, and/or implementation for innovative practices.