

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

IES Johan Carballeira is a state High School which provides Vocational Training cycles.

The pillars of our working agenda are: Encouraging cooperation, multiculturalism, personal initiative and entrepreneurship; promoting the learning of languages and increasing the employability of our students. We want to prepare students for being citizens as well as professionals who are capable of facing the challenges of globalization and dealing successfully with the current situation of the labour market.

IES Johan Carballeira offers, among other studies, two Higher Level VET cycles: Business Administration and Finance, and Metallic Constructions. In order to get the diploma, students must spend a 384 hours working placement in a company (FCT), which is equivalent to 22 ECTS credits.

Our main goal is sending our students abroad to these working placements, because we firmly believe that this experience is crucial for their academic, professional and personal development.

This purpose has led us to create the European Programmes Department (EPD), composed by the Erasmus coordinator, the FCT coordinator, the tutors of the advanced cycles and a person from the foreign languages department. This department is closely supported by the HEI's management team and the school administrative staff.

The EPD has been managing student mobility placements (SMP) under the Erasmus Programme since 2011. Host countries are selected according to the following criteria: the linguistic capacities of our students, similarity between curricula and educational systems, the development of R&D policies on the professional area of our cycles and favourable perspectives of their labour market.

The EPD is responsible for contacting with the most suitable host companies. The main guidelines for considering a company eligible are: adequacy of the company activities to our student's profile, quality of the placement and the training program and finally, promotion and job opportunities. The department has been working steadily with a number of institutions that meet these requirements, although we hope to expand our partners list during this new period.

The main goals of our international strategy within the framework 2014/20 are: increasing the volume and quality of our SMP (incoming and outgoing ), expanding the range of host countries (inside and outside the EU) and taking part into cooperation projects and exchange networks, in order to set up interinstitutional partnerships for the future development of SMS and staff mobility. In addition to this, we expect to

involve the whole educational community in the overall strategy, promoting the participation in the Leonardo da Vinci and Comenius Programs.

The EPD is committed to working actively for the continuous development, modernization and improvement of our international strategy. To do so, in the long term the team will be reinforced with more staff members and students (creating an Erasmus Students Network) in order to manage properly all our international activities.

To ensure that student applications and selection processes are equitable and transparent, the department implements open and fair procedures that avoid discrimination and ensure the access to our activities for all the students that want to take part in the programs. In order to guarantee the correction of possible mistakes and the gradual enhancement of our procedures, self-assessment will be essential. This evaluation process will also imply the conduction of surveys to get a constant feedback from the educational community.

All our international strategy has visibility through the school notice boards, the website and the blog of European programs. We also organize periodical meetings with students, staff and parents. Information is also ensured through leaflets, brochures and adverts published on the media.

The Programme provides our students valuable tools to confront the challenges of European and global labour markets, testing their competences and abilities on an international environment. As a consequence, our students acquire new skills and ideas which will be really useful for their career and their future employability, and our institution gets the necessary feedback for modernizing and improving our professional and technological knowledge. Moreover, all these factors contribute to increase the competitiveness of our educational offer, our local companies and our economy.

Developing SMP has helped our institution to recognize and assume the requests of the European labour market, contributing to improve the quality of our educational system. Another advantage is the positive impact into the recognition and appreciation of VET cycles as key to get into the job market and also as an interesting previous stage to university studies. In addition to this, the development of cooperation networks between schools, institutions and companies, generates synergies of exchange, research and knowledge, really valuable in order to suit the professional demands of the companies with our educational offer. We consider that this feedback is vital to overcome the current crisis and reduce the youth unemployment rate (which in Spain is now over 50%).

It is also important to point out that these actions give our students the chance to boost their human capital, reinforcing essential values such as the sense of European

citizenship, cooperation, integration, flexibility, respect, equity, multiculturalism, personal initiative, entrepreneurship and longlife learning.

Our participation into the Erasmus Program has reported great benefits to our institution, increasing the prestige and appealing of our Vocational Training cycles. These excellent results have also encouraged our educational community to participate and develop international cooperation projects.

Finally, our international strategy benefits the whole educative staff, encouraging the development of working teams between teachers from different subjects, staff and students, generating academic and professional incentives, enhancing the management of our international strategy, modernizing our institution, improving the cohesion and strengthening of our institution as a whole.