

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The Norwegian University of Life Sciences' (NMBU's) Erasmus Policy Statement is based on the University Strategy 2019-2023.

NMBU's mission is to contribute to the well-being of the planet. Our interdisciplinary research and study programmes generate innovations in food, public and animal health, environmental protection, bio-production, climate and sustainable use of natural resources. This unique academic synthesis places NMBU in the perfect position to help address global challenges and enable a sustainable future in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Our students are encouraged to adopt a mindset in support of sustainability. They will obtain the knowledge, competencies and skills required to meet major global societal challenges. We cultivate strong professional environments and cooperation across subjects and disciplines, promoting new ideas and innovation. Extensive international cooperation is a fundamental factor to success and participation in the Erasmus Programme is crucial for NMBU to reach these intertwined goals.

NMBU activities are characterized by interaction, domestically and with the world at large. The university will continue to create an inclusive culture, working environment and academic community founded on transparency, tolerance and interaction. NMBU will actively participate in the EU's education and research programmes, to create and sustain environments for research and education that are internationally acknowledged as leaders in the sector. International research and teaching cooperation are the foundation for implementing and developing partnerships resulting in strong academic networks. Increased cooperation is the key to success, and this necessitates that researchers, teachers and students have continued access to strong academic networks. The Erasmus programme provides access to strong academic networks for both students and staff through mobility and institutional collaboration.

Mobility contributes to enhanced quality and competency in education, research, innovation and multicultural understanding. A successful NMBU graduate will demonstrate knowledge that builds on secondary education of important topics, theories, issues, processes, tools and methods within the academic field and in an international perspective. NMBU students are therefore strongly encouraged to take part of their studies abroad through one of our numerous institutional agreements, and particularly through the Erasmus+ agreements. Access to an international experience is available to the entire student population, and an Erasmus exchange provides an affordable option for students to obtain a valuable international experience. Staff are also encouraged to cultivate their international relationships with visits for guest lecturing and common curriculum development.

Reciprocity is an important component of the Erasmus programme. As important as outbound mobility is for NMBU students and staff, inbound mobility plays just as important a role in reaching our goals. Guest researchers and guest students enrich the academic community, contributing to new ideas and fueling innovation. Receiving international researchers and students on campus also provides an international experience at home for those who cannot travel abroad.

For those who can only spend short stays abroad, NMBU plans to increase the use of blended mobility. The digitalization of society and education promote flexibility in teaching and increase access for students, teachers and researchers. Our educational programmes must follow technological developments and promote critical thinking and understanding of enabling technologies and cultures. Appropriate educational use of new digital technology will improve quality, customize learning environments and improve learning outcomes.

Europe is a special focus for NMBU. Norway's main trading partners are in Europe, and the university sees the need to educate candidates that have strong knowledge of European culture and language. During studies, students have a unique opportunity to develop personal and professional networks which we aim to cultivate, especially through the Erasmus Programme. The skills and knowledge gained by our students during an Erasmus exchange contribute to their employability after degree completion.