

# ERASMUS policy statement



Erasmus+

ISMA international strategy is aimed at versatile development of international cooperation.

Our **main directions of studies** are Business Administration, Tourism Management and Information Systems, and **our aim** is to establish strong international cooperation in all these fields of studies. Partners for cooperation are chosen with regard to that. On EU level our interests of cooperation cover the whole EU. So far we have been cooperating with institutions and companies from various EU countries, including both old and new EU members, UK and Scandinavian countries. We are planning to continue and enhance the existing cooperation, as well as to search for new opportunities. Regarding non-EU cooperation, our interests are not limited with a certain list of countries as well. We have a positive experience of cooperation with *Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia* among others, and we are ready to look at possibilities of cooperation with partners from all countries that are covered by the Programme.

We prefer to give equal opportunities to students and staff not depending on their level of studies/work. However, we feel that international cooperation on doctoral level should be enhanced. Regarding student training, we are planning to enhance the Information Systems field in order to give students more work placement opportunities.

Development of double and joint degree programs is an important part of our International activities. Our priority is to develop a joint/double degree Bachelor program in Business Administration and/or Tourism Management within a partnership, which includes partners from EU countries. However, we are also open to other propositions concerning joint/double degree programs. Overall, our institution is aimed at developing different types of international cooperation and is open to any offers.

ISMA has a significant experience in organisation of teaching and training **mobility** under Erasmus program. We always ensure that we give the best level of support both to our outgoing staff members and to incoming staff members. **Mobility under Erasmus program in ISMA is well organised and is working properly.** However, our long-time aim is to establish strong connections for teaching and training mobility also outside of EU. To fulfil it, we are going to use the experience obtained throughout the years of working in Erasmus, as well as opportunities of the Programme. We already have strong contacts with our long-time partners from different non-EU countries, but we are also looking forward to establish new partnerships.

By participating in the Programme we are planning to modernize our institution in accordance with Europe 2020 strategy.

Although Erasmus cooperation on EU level has been successful and fruitful; we see the huge importance of cooperating with partners from outside of EU in order to

attract more students and researchers into the EU education market. We need to stimulate staff exchange with non-EU countries to facilitate experience exchange, which should then result in educational and research projects. Besides developing the non-EU cooperation, we will keep enlarging and enhancing the cooperation inside EU in order to raise the quality and relevance of our study programs. We cooperate with many companies in Latvia and abroad in the field of student and staff training in order to be up-to-date with realities of markets for which we prepare our students. Also, teaching and administrative staff benefits from international mobility by enhancing their professional skills, gaining new experience, building new contacts in their fields of work, which makes them overall better motivated and competent.

Particular stress is made on exchange of experience in use of modern ICTs, which facilitate flexible and progressive methods of teaching.

Latvia has an ECTS compatible credit system, which allows making the process of recognition easy. ISMA programs are also built to such standards that allow being flexible and not building unnecessary complications during recognition process.

Moreover, we have a good experience in accepting students and teachers from non-EU countries, including organizing the issuance of visas for short stays. Thus, we are not going to have unnecessary complications working with non-EU countries, which is beneficial for all parties.

The Programme gives a lot of possibilities to cooperate with companies not only in Latvia, but also around the world which facilitates the connection of education and business. We have been actively using these opportunities in the past and we are going to expand these activities in the future.