

## **What is Erasmus**

The purpose of Erasmus is to improve the quality of higher education and strengthen its European dimension. It does this by encouraging transnational cooperation between universities, facilitating the movement of students and teachers between European countries, and contributing to improved transparency and academic recognition of qualifications and studies throughout the European Union.

*Bilateral Agreement* is the agreement defining the framework and duration of the exchange planned by two higher education institutions within the scope of Socrates/Erasmus.

Erasmus supports the following activities:

### *Student Mobility - SM*

Erasmus gives students (up to and including doctorate students, except for students enrolled in their first year of higher education) the opportunity to study for a period of 3-12 months at a university or higher education establishment in another participating country in the framework of agreed arrangements between universities.

Students who have been selected by their universities to spend an Erasmus study period at a partner university in Europe do not have to pay fees to the host university for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities during the Erasmus studies. However, costs such as insurance, student unions, the use of photocopiers and laboratory products may be charged. This condition also counts for Erasmus students not receiving a grant.

### *Teaching Staff Mobility - TM*

Erasmus provides support for teachers giving, generally short courses, as part of the official curriculum of a partner university in another European country.

### *Organization of Mobility - OM*

Erasmus provides support to higher education institutions for the creation of optimal conditions:

- for students, to undertake recognized periods of study at partner institutions in other participating countries
- for teachers, to organize fully integrated teaching assignments of short duration
- for implementation of ECTS and Diploma Supplement (DS)

## **What is ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)**

ECTS aims to facilitate student mobility in the European Union and enable transfer of credits for the benefit of students who complete part of their studies at another participating institution.

ECTS Credits are a value allocated to describe the course and also the entire student workload (such as lectures, practical work, seminars, private study, examinations, homework, etc.) required to complete these courses successfully.

Credits in ECTS are not only dependent on course hours but also on the entire workload that the courses require. All the obligatory and optional courses are credited by the ECTS. ECTS credits are also awarded for work such as dissertations, projects and placements.

Normally one academic year of work constitutes 60 ECTS.