

## Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (Portugal) Erasmus Policy Statement

The Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) asserts itself as an innovation co-creation ecosystem, involving students, teachers and staff with companies and organizations, aiming to create a regional knowledge-based economy and to implement strong international partnerships, both at EU and worldwide levels. IPB stands for a reference in the European Higher Education Area, in the context of the Universities of Applied Sciences system, implementing innovative teaching and practice-based research, through collaborative laboratories, strategic partnerships and living labs, in a multidisciplinary and multicultural learning community.

IPB is a deep international and multicultural institution where 33% (3000 out of 9000) of its students are international students from 70 different countries. IPB has also a mobility program with widely recognized success, with an annual mobility of around 1000 incoming and outgoing students and 400 principals, teaching and non-teaching staff members, as the result of the collaboration with several HEIs from all over the world.

The EU and non-EU IPB partners are chosen taking into account similar HE profiles, curricula, and research interests, with emphasis in the European Network of Universities of Applied Sciences and in the Portuguese Speaking Countries and Regions. IPB supports both the mobility of graduation (1st cycle and short cycle) and post-graduation students, for studies and internships. Currently, 25% of the IPB graduates have had an international learning mobility experience, above the 20% EU 2020 goal. Also, internationalization at home is promoted through new collaborative online international learning projects, as well as taking advantage of the real student and teachers international environments and communities at IPB. Teaching and non-teaching staff mobility is deeply promoted and recognized within their professional activities and career development. A special emphasis for mobility is currently dedicated to the acquisition of skills in pedagogical innovation and curriculum modernization.

All the bachelor and master programs offered at IPB are designed according to the Bologna Process and following the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) best-practices. Besides the academic programs taught in the Portuguese language, the IPB also offers bachelor and master

programs fully lectured in English, as well as Portuguese language and culture courses for foreign students. In 2011, the European Commission has awarded the ECTS Label to the IPB, acknowledging the quality of the information provided in terms of the degree programs offered and the management of student mobility within the European Higher Education Area. In 2013, IPB has been awarded also the Diploma Supplement (DS) Label, ensuring the international transparency and fair academic and professional recognition of qualifications.

IPB also distinguishes itself through the IPB double diploma international platform. Started in 2014, and together with the Erasmus International Credit Mobility (ICM) program, the IPB DD platform is much more than student and staff mobility. It is shaped as an international platform to promote joint academic and research outputs, staff development on the European HE best-practices, and to improve the management and operation of partner HEIs in international relations capacities. In six years, the IPB DD platform involved more than 900 students and 250 staff (governance boards, teaching and non-teaching staff) of more than 50 HEIs and 20 different non-EU Countries, including Latin America, South Mediterranean, Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Russia Federation, Central Asia, and Africa. Within the IPB DD platform, master theses are co-supervised with clear and promising outputs, including co-author publications and communications at international conferences. Besides promoting EU best-practices, this clearly positions the IPB DD platform to remarkably contribute to the best results in international rankings, namely on student and staff international mobility and international joint publications.

The IPB general strategic objectives in internationalization include:

- a) The consolidation of the student international mobility as part of HE learning experience at IPB and its partners, including studies and internships;
- b) The consolidation of the international mobility of the IPB and partners' staff as part of their career development and modernization, including training and dissemination of innovative pedagogical practices and curricular developments;
- c) The enhancement of the international mobility and double/joint degrees within the European UAS system, as well as with strategic partners in the Portuguese Speaking Countries and worldwide;
- d) The creation of international and strategic partnerships for common visions aiming at regional development and transitional processes, and European innovation ecosystems at HE.