

ERASMUS

European Policy Statement of Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz

The advancement of international university cooperation is set forth by the Higher Education Act of Rhineland Palatine (§2, section 5, Higher Education Act) and thus forms part of the mission Johannes Gutenberg-University (JGU) has been assigned by the legislature. A special focus is on European cooperation.

Johannes Gutenberg-University sees “internationalisation” as a cross-section task which includes all university activities such as research, knowledge transfer, degree courses, continuing education and administration. For central statements on internationalisation see JGU’s mission statement (cf. “links for further/additional info”: www.uni-mainz.de/international).

In its future concept, “THE GUTENBERG SPIRIT: Moving Minds - Crossing Boundaries”, 2012, JGU emphasises its goal of further enhancing **the quality of research and teaching in order to support the improvement of educational standards and to help meet Europe’s need for researchers and scientists**. Johannes Gutenberg-University is convinced that an internationally visible research performance can be achieved by focusing on selected interdisciplinary priority areas while simultaneously giving systematic support to individual excellence. The recruitment of top researchers from all over the world, as well as the preparation of young scholars for international (research) careers, count among the crucial goals of JGU. For a sustained support, the “Gutenberg Forschungskolleg” GFK (www.gfk.uni-mainz.de) was founded as a strategic instrument to advance top-level research. Its equivalent in teaching is the “Gutenberg Lehrkolleg” (GLK). The GLK aims to strengthen **the innovative development of academic teaching with special regard to research orientation, interdisciplinarity, internationality, and job market relevancy**. At the same time, the GLK aims to generate and disseminate scientific contributions to the further improvement of study structures and learning environments at the JGU. The publication of the JGU-Teaching Strategy in 2010 is a visible expression of this dedication (www.glk.uni-mainz.de).

The goal of educating JGU students to become well-informed and open-minded citizens equipped with the necessary skills for international competition, is part of the university’s future concept. To work out the specifics of this strategic goal, the University Senate established a Commission on Internationalisation in 2012. International mobility as well as ‘Internationalisation at home’ are key topics in the work of the commission.

JGU is connected world-wide in research and teaching. Over 500 cooperation agreements, including more than 100 with institutions outside Europe, document the degree of interconnectedness. International networking follows the bottom-up-principle: expansion of existing individual contacts to subject-specific or cross-disciplinary collaborations. Current focus countries for European transnational cooperation are France and Poland; overseas cooperation is centered on the US, Canada, PR China, Japan, South Korea, as well as South Africa, Ruanda and Namibia. Every year approximately 1000 JGU students participate in various mobility programmes to spend a semester or a year abroad. Many of these international exchanges on Bachelor or Master level take place in the framework of “Integrated Study Courses” leading to double or multiple degrees (see also: www.uni-mainz.de/international/801_DEU_HTML.php). Doctoral students can acquire a bi-national doctorate

by participating in the *Cotutelle* programme jointly supervised by the JGU and international partner universities. **Such high-quality mobility measures shall be expanded in the future. They ensure that the quality of education at Johannes Gutenberg-University can be developed further in a sustained manner.**

The EU-ServicePoint (www.eu-servicepoint.de) facilitates and financially supports international ERASMUS internships for JGU students and thus contributes **to a job-oriented education of students and a close connection with the economy.**

With regard to young researchers, the following collaborations with international exchange partners should be emphasised: the first international “DFG-Graduiertenkolleg” (post-graduate programme IGK) with South Korea, the Graduate School of Excellence with cooperation partners in the USA, China, and Japan, and the cluster of excellence PRISMA (www.prisma.uni-mainz.de).

The **HR development concept** of JGU (www.personalentwicklung.uni-mainz.de) offers all JGU employees the opportunity to improve their foreign language and intercultural skills as well as to take part in staff exchanges with international partner universities.

The implementation of EU education programmes involves administrative and academic tasks and requires an appropriate division of responsibilities between all **academic and administrative parties involved**. The International Office is in charge of the overall coordination of EU education programmes within JGU and works closely with the various parties in the academic and the administrative realm.

On the **academic level**, all decisions are made by the academic staff, the faculty councils, and the Senate (including the Senate Committee on Internationalisation). Academic staff decide matters concerning the academic aspects of cooperation programmes (e.g. learning agreements) and are responsible for academic recognition (based on ECTS/Lisbon Convention). In addition, all departments have appointed special representative staff members as ERASMUS Faculty Coordinators. On the **administrative level**, the International Office is in charge of the central organisation and implementation of EU education programmes. For this particular task, respective teams have been established, including the EU-ServicePoint for ERASMUS internships. The International Office applies for funding from EU education programmes across all disciplines, processes EU-grant agreements, manages resources, and prepares financial and topical reports. For the implementation of EU programmes, the International Office closely cooperates with other administrative departments at JGU (e.g. Studies and Teaching, Finance, Human Resources) as well as with the study and international exchange offices of the academic departments. As the legal representative of the university, the President is always involved in EU programmes.

A communication and cooperation network of the above mentioned parties and the students has been established (regular meetings, info conferences, training, information on homepages, emails, Facebook etc.).

In its agenda of modernisation, the new generation of education programmes identifies five priorities. Johannes Gutenberg-University expects the following effects of the agenda:

1 – Increasing the number of higher education graduates

With very few exceptions (e.g. Law and Medicine), JGU has consistently transformed its study courses into Bachelor and Master programmes. As a part of this transformation, new study programmes (e.g. a European Master) have emerged to exist next to traditional ones. The creation of additional study courses will contribute to meeting Europe's growing need for graduates.

2 - Improving the quality and relevance of a university education

The cooperation with international partners offers an opportunity to regularly assess and enhance the quality and relevance of a university education with special regard to the goal of educating students to become global and open-minded citizens. An improvement of the quality is also expected due to the following measures.

3 – Promoting mobility of students and staff and cross-border co-operations

JGU aspires to further improve the quality of studies, research and teaching by way of expanding specific types of international mobility and international cooperation. Current examples are (a) strategic partnerships (e.g. graduate school Mainz, Stanford/USA and Tohoku/Japan) and *Cotutelle* agreements, (b) joint study courses (e.g. Mainz-Dijon), (c) international guest lecturers at the JGU, (d) short-term teaching activities of young academic staff abroad (ERAMUS), (e) participation of JGU students in international competitions, (f) the establishment of international study tandems and (g) a Code of Conduct for the reception of international students at JGU.

4 – Strengthening the “knowledge triangle”, linking education, research, and innovation

Many of the international partnerships of Johannes Gutenberg-University are already integrated into networks with partners in various public sectors, such as higher education, culture, administration, and the economy. The university maintains partnerships with Dijon, Haifa, Valencia and Zagreb, which also have twinning arrangements with the city of Mainz. The state of Rhineland-Palatinate maintains partnerships with the Burgundy Region in France, the Voivodship Opole in Poland, the Republic of Rwanda, the state of South Carolina in the USA, and the Fujian Province in the People's Republic of China. JGU cooperates intensively with the regional institutions.

5 – Creating effective governance and funding mechanisms for higher education

Over recent years, an orientation of the university policy towards strategic goals has taken place at JGU. This orientation was, among other things, triggered by EU programmes as well as the Federal Initiative for Excellence and will continue in the future. The focus on strategic goals facilitates a targeted governance and resource allocation.