

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT - OVERALL STRATEGY

*Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees:*

UniCamillus is a newly established university dedicated to Health and Medical Sciences with a strong focus towards the international scenario and that welcomes students from all over the world. At its first year of activity, it already has over 40% of non-European and international students from over 10 countries (Romania, Russia, Switzerland, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, USA, Israel, Nigeria, Haiti, Venezuela, Benin, Indonesia, Senegal, Kenya). In line with the international profile the degree courses are taught in English. The University trains its students to become physicians and health professionals versatile and focused on diseases of underprivileged countries. For this reason, the University is addressed particularly to young people who show a humanitarian, scientific and professional interest in the health problems affecting especially the Developing countries. Internationalization and cooperation represent two of the fundamental pillars of our University's strategy. UniCamillus is concentrating its efforts on developing its international dimension. The University is also focusing on foreseeing and defining concrete interventions aimed at improving and strengthening the relations between university, research and business in order to create excellence and innovation in the many academic fields and with reference to the performance of the more administrative and managerial activities. Saint Camillus International University of Health Sciences aims at offering all its students (future and current, Italian and foreign) cosmopolitan experiences. Professors, coordinators and administrative staff members are fully involved in the internationalization project and collaborate to enhance future exchanges and mobility programs. In fact, the University's effort in international exchange projects is intended not only for the student body but is also meant to build cooperative relations in academic and research related activities in the various health fields. Research represents the fulcrum of UniCamillus and through its partnerships with many research centers, it focuses on the "needs" of the less developed countries. Participating at the Erasmus Program and therefore being part of new European and non-European collaboration programs is a great opportunity for our University both from a quantitative and qualitative

point of view. It represents a chance of enriching the academic and training background. Intra-university exchanges allow students to transfer at the end of their experience, know-how and skills gained abroad. Out-going students become "ambassadors" of the Italian medical excellence and of the country itself. In order to implement international collaboration agreements, the geographical areas of interest identified by UniCamillus are: Europe and the Mediterranean area, African countries, South East Asia and the Middle East. In this view, the University manages regular contacts with the foreign embassies to promote future forms of collaboration and sponsor UniCamillus potential. Choosing the right partner represents a key factor with reference to internationalization scope. The criteria adopted by Unicamillus for the partner selection are based on the:

- Specific academic-training needs highlighted by the departments and by their respective course coordinators;
- Priorities assigned to the various subject areas by the faculty;
- Proven quality of the educational offer of the universities/institutions/structures with which to develop cooperation agreements;
- Complementarity between programs and educational systems of the foreign institution;
- Innovative academic programs and research projects that exert a strong attractive power;
- Internationalization rate of the courses also from a linguistic point of view (number of languages in which course will be taught);
- Provision of quality services offered to students involved in the mobility program;
- Willingness in enhancing the relationships professors-administrative staff members of the future partner university.

This will allow a greater and faster integration of the students within the academic system. To enable exchanges, Unicamillus focuses its attention on the quality of its international relations and more in general on the institution's communication skills. UniCamillus aims at improving the language level of its out-going students and provides Italian and English language courses to all its in-coming students to facilitate the integration process within the national territory. Although at its first year of activity, UniCamillus has established relations and signed conventions for future international cooperation

agreements with some of the best academic hubs of the Middle East and of Central Africa and is about to engage in other international projects in order to build and enlarge its network of contacts with other international institutions.

*Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. If not applicable, please explain:*

Our University is willing to contribute to social development through high teaching quality standards, development of basic research programs in various health and medical fields, a coherent internationalization strategy and cooperation agreements with abroad institutions and universities. UniCamillus aims at gaining excellent managerial skills with reference to all the aspects of the internationalization processes. Its goal is to immediately implement a coordination system between the academic department and the administrative offices to facilitate procedures concerning international mobility. The student services provided go beyond the learning and training aspects. In fact, Unicamillus has established language courses, a student's "customer satisfaction" office and real regular assessments to monitor the perceived academic quality and individual teaching level, all aimed at implementing a transparency policy. Internationalization for Unicamillus means enrichment and therefore the possibility for its students to attend multi-ethnic classes and carry out internships and practical training classes in foreign, modern and advanced hospitals. The intention of UniCamillus is to choose partner universities by defining appropriate selection criteria so to maintain high academic levels. The University is working to create long-lasting relationships with privileged partners, which represent an excellence in the academic environment and that are focused on humanitarian, scientific and professional topics as well as on health issues. UniCamillus will focus its internal resources in specific areas in which a greater investment can give the best results in terms of national and international competition, so to increase the visibility and "status" of the University in the Italian, European and extra-European context. Within its degree courses, the University has also included subjects and topics related to the social sciences in order to promote multiculturalism. In this way the future health professionals and physicians will be able to adopt different approaches depending on the social context in which they will be called to work. UniCamillus has therefore established relationships and agreements with strong centers of excellence in member, partner and foreign countries. Our newly established University is opened to the international world and is engaged in keeping ongoing relations with foreign delegations located on the

national territory such as embassies and consulates, and in enhancing contacts with local institutions to promote its potential and academic offer.

*Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution.*

*Please refer to each of the priorities of the renewed EU Agenda for higher education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area\* and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue:*

The participation of Unicamillus in the Erasmus + program will have a positive impact on the modernization of the institution through;

- A greater involvement of the University in international projects;
  - A better visibility of the newly established University which will result in the ability to attract researchers, students and professors from many countries;
  - The possibility of developing new study courses including joint programs;
  - The activation of new funds to finance innovative research projects and other educational activities;
  - Increasing the quality of both teaching standards and governance system.
- UniCamillus, in line with the objectives set by the EU, wants to adopt a strategy that helps to increase the level of higher education in Italy and in the rest of the world, both from a qualitative and quantitative point of view.

The University intends to train health professionals in order to enable them to play an increasingly active role in the social transformation of our society. UniCamillus goal is also to encourage and enlarge the number of students who can enjoy the opportunity of studying abroad and to promote the flow of new knowledge, skills, methodologies and educational opportunities. The effectiveness and efficiency of the educational and academic system is one of the main tools for the economic, political and social development of each country. Mobility contributes to the employment rate in the local and global market, it offers the opportunity to get to know new cultures, learn languages and acquire intercultural skills. Attracting international students can be an excellent opportunity to train talents that once completed their studies, invest their professional future also in favor of our country. Such students are intended to become privileged interlocutors and ambassadors of the Italian culture and excellence in their respective countries of origin. The University will try to stimulate investments for new research programs and increase its



efforts to provide financial support to students through scholarships and Loans of Honor that fully cover the tuition fees. Relations with other international organizations offer UniCamillus the opportunity to improve the effectiveness of its governance by adopting new managerial models for the management of all the different phases of the exchange and cooperation process. Furthermore, mobility programs promote the implementation of new ideas such as different tutoring methods, placement systems and student selection methodologies. All is aimed at reducing barriers in relation to foreign exchanges.