

In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

## 1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

### 1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

**Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:**

The mobility of higher education students and staff

**Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:**

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

**Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):**

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

### 1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as

well as on the goal of building a European Education Area<sup>1</sup> and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The Universidade de Vigo has been a Spanish institution pioneer in the implementation of specific internationalisation strategies focused on encouraging students and staff to spend time abroad to learn or teach, on recognising the qualifications obtained during exchange periods, as well as on promoting the teaching and learning of different languages. Thanks to its 22 Jean Monnet actions, the UVigo has also spread knowledge about the European identity and heritage, in line with the European Education Area priorities. The participation of the Universidade de Vigo in the Erasmus+ programme since the beginning has represented a clear indicator of progression in our internationalisation process, and has indeed much helped with all our internationalisation at home activities.

The Erasmus Programme in our institution will continue to be a driving force in making mobility a natural part of the academic life of our students, teachers and administrative staff, from an inclusive point of view. In the past, the Erasmus+ programme has been an important catalyst in the reform and internationalisation of our university, with the introduction of Bologna tools that provided wider transparency, the transferability of credits, the recognition of the learning periods, thanks to the implementation of the online learning agreement, the high number of incoming students, thus fostering a better understanding and mutual trust with our EU partners, and beyond.

In this new period we are entering, important challenges will be faced by our university in order to advance in its modernisation and to comply with our main internationalisation goals: first of all, and regarding mobility actions, our objective is to continue to maintain the current mobility figures of incoming and outgoing students for studies and placements and those of staff, taking into account the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 and the current face-to-face mobility restrictions. Even if physical mobilities may be affected by this situation or other international emergency situation, new opportunities are open for universities regarding virtual and blended mobility and the offer of online courses, we would like to explore. Courses will be offered for exchange students online, through our corporative online campus tools that have been demonstrating their robustness and high quality during the COVID pandemic (eg. Remote campus: <https://campusremotouvigo.gal/>). This way the quality of online teaching will be guaranteed and students will be encouraged to interact and work in international groups, thus improving our online mobility. During the period of virtual mobility within the framework of a blended mobility, students and staff will be offered the same treatment, they will be entitled to the same services and opportunities as local students and staff, as well as participants who are on long-term physical mobility. Our International Office together with our international coordinators at the faculties and schools will work in the digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative. We will work to implement the European Student Identifier, that allows students to access the Erasmus tools, and will continue encouraging our students to use the Erasmus+ app, as a single point of entry to the Erasmus+ programme. Full recognition will continue to be an essential part of our international strategy, together with maintaining an up-to-date course catalogue on our website, as well as having all learning agreements (for studies and traineeships), signed by the sending and receiving institutions and the student, before the start of mobility and the use of transcript of records indicating the number of credits earned and grades achieved. The recognition framework will be updated and published on our international website. Regarding international credit mobility (KA107), the Universidade de Vigo has participated in this action since its first publication by the Spanish National Agency for the programme SEPIE, with important incoming and outgoing figures and with a focus on different areas, including the Western Balkans, Asia and Africa. The experience has been very positive and we will continue analysing new international partners to have a broad offer of possible destinations. As sending and receiving institution we will increase our efforts to promote a more environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour among all participants.

Besides mobility actions, our university has played a very active role in the design and implementation of innovative European cooperation projects and strategic partnerships as a coordinator or as a partner (since 2000, participation in more than 100 approved UE projects), mainly 22 Jean Monnet actions, including a Centre of Excellence, several Chairs, modules and JEA projects; 20 Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education, 13 Erasmus+ CBHE Capacity Building projects with the North of Africa, Asia and Western Balkans, 10 Erasmus Mundus projects, 3 Erasmus+ Sports projects, 2 Knowledge

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)

Alliances projects, 1 KA3 Support for Policy Reform, Forward looking cooperation project and 1 KA3 Social Inclusion and Common Values Project or 1 Creative Europe project.

In the first call of European Universities, the UVigo has already shown its interest in this EU initiative. In this line, the UVigo is actively participating in the Interreg programme, through the project “Universidades sin fronteras (USF)”, closely working with 5 other Galician and Portuguese universities, focusing on finding new ways to develop curricula and mobility in a more flexible way. Uvigo is also very active in all Iacobus Calls for the promotion of cooperation and exchange actions between HEIs of the Euroregion Galicia-North of Portugal (both for students and staff).

In order to encourage a higher participation of our university community members in European projects under the Erasmus+ programme or Horizon 2020, and in the future new programmes of cooperation fostered by the UE for the coming period 2021-2027, to contribute to the training of our teachers and staff in the design and implementation of projects, to have higher visibility with those partners interested in carrying out new proposals, in Europe and worldwide, and to offer a centralised service of higher quality as an entry point for all requests and information regarding EU funding and projects, our university in the month of September opened a new office: the Office for International Projects (OPI), with two areas: one for research projects and another for education projects.

The International Education Project Area of our OPI will encourage the participation of our staff and students and the implementation, under the EACEA and SEPIE calls (KA2, KA3, Sports, JEA, Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, etc.) of innovative international projects under the following modalities: international cooperation; educational innovation; curriculum development; exchange of good practices and know-how; capacity-building; knowledge alliances; international strategic partnerships, strategic planning and international management and digital internationalisation.

Our international strategies have had a positive impact on the institution international growth, and in particular as regards:

- .the development of new partnerships, especially with new emerging and EU neighbour countries (i.e. Asia, Latin America, North of Africa) and different types of public and private institutions, as well as with HEIs from countries willing to join the EU.
- . the increase of outgoing student and staff mobility to EU and non-EU countries for studies and placements, which has also been possible through the participation of the UVigo in different networks, such as NICE, Grupo Compostela Universidades, EUF, GE4, ISEP,, FCEER (Fundación Galicia-Norte de Portugal), among others. The Uvigo is also an active member of the cross-border Galicia-North of Portugal Eures network to promote employment and mobility actions.
- . the signature of quality agreements with HEIs outside the EU to open new exchanges and further ways of cooperation, by joining cooperation aid projects (Latin America or Africa).
- the promotion of foreign language learning so that the teaching staff acquire the relevant language proficiency to facilitate teaching in other languages and the organisation and funding of language courses for incoming/outgoing students and staff.
- . the attraction of international students from different countries, through networks like CGU, ISEP or GE4; and to improve the services offered for incoming students, with a better housing offer, help with visas, the buddy system, language tandem or specific cultural activities, as well as the cooperation with the Erasmus Student Network Spain to help integrate foreign students.
- . the study of double degrees with those partner institutions we already have bilateral agreements with as well as international projects in force so as to have a more international academic offer and to attain higher rates of foreign students, as well as to foster employability among registered students.
- . a higher awareness among Uvigo members of working with universities in Europe and in neighbour countries through participation in EU projects, including development aid projects financed by regional governments.
- . the joint development of courses with other HEIs is possible through the participation in several educative and cooperation projects.
- . embracing the modernisation agenda or fostering knowledge alliances taken into account EU priorities through the participation of the UVigo in projects in this field.

The Uvigo also pursues to attract students, academics and researchers from non-participating countries. To attract potential partners and become visible internationally University staff actively participate in the conferences, trainings abroad, and organises international weeks.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how

they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

To comply with future challenges for the new EU programmes 2021-2027, the following mechanisms have been recently approved (<https://www.uvigo.gal/universidade/internacional>)

-A new Internationalisation Strategy based on international mobility, international cooperation, academic activity cooperation, international presence and institutional capacity and training program (with specific measurable indicators and target actions).

-The new Mobility Regulations, which tackle international mobility, participants' rights and obligations, selection procedures, and learning agreements and studies/training recognition processes,

-The Language Policy to foster all initiatives related to languages and their accreditation, Our LP includes actions to guarantee students and staff attain the language proficiency required by the host institutions. The University Language Centre organises fully subsidised language-specific courses for (teaching & administrative) staff, including Galician language. It also offers language tandems and subsidised intensive courses at different levels for students and trainees previous to departure. To ensure outbound mobility applicants have the level defined in the learning agreements, candidates who do not hold a recent language accreditation must sit for the UVigo own language test for the required CEFR level. As for teachers, a B2 level is compulsory for lecturing in a foreign language. The Language Centre also ensures adequate language support to incoming students. Information on Spanish courses is sent before arrival and groups are scheduled on the basis of the students' availability. Intensive courses are offered on arrival for students with low level of Spanish and blended learning courses & tandems are run for students with time limitations. Courses are subsidised and credits are allocated depending on workload: [www.uvigo.es/uvigo\\_en/administracion/ori/lexislacion/index.html](http://www.uvigo.es/uvigo_en/administracion/ori/lexislacion/index.html)

-A Regulation for the Mutual Recognition of Studies supporting double degrees with institutions abroad. Our main focus being:

-enlarging our support for the development and modernisation of HE systems in third countries by helping build the institutional capacity of partners in developing or emerging regions, using as a platform to design new projects with other parts of the world the links already established through previous projects coordinated by the Uvigo so as to transfer the acquired expertise to other regions.

-continuing working on the internationalisation of learning and teaching, together with other stakeholders and business to offer new learning methods with a focus on the EU digital agenda. We shall include Open Educational Resources into learning/teaching and participate in international projects in this field.

-providing our students with new learning and internship experiences abroad, including mobility for placements in other non EU countries and integrated cultural mobility (volunteering, community engagement, ...) New destinations will be opened in new EU countries and Asia.

-opening an adult-senior mobility action and join networks of elderly students to collaborate in multilateral projects.

-developing our current blended mobility system with new features in order to strengthen mobility actions, encouraging students/staff to continue/start their mobility flows at the Universidade de Vigo and adapting to the new post COVID19 scenario or other future emergency situations. We are in favor of mainstreaming high-quality and high-impact (in terms of acquisition of competences) through initiatives such as 'Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)' or others, as complement to physical mobility.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in

cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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The continuous modernisation of the institution, the promotion of innovation and the cross-border cooperation are also among our strategic priorities, which will work to:

-provide our staff with opportunities to go abroad, not only to HEIs, but also opening the mobility to other types of organisations, such as SMEs., so as to increase the number of our staff mobilities (incoming and outgoing) by 30%.

-create international volunteer actions for our students, mainly continuing working in the framework of cooperation aid projects together with NGOs and non-profit organizations, so students may gain insight into global issues faced by communities around the world, in order to increase the number of our international volunteer actions by 20%.

-improve the quality of mobility and quality tools at home. The UVigo has swiftly implemented new remote tools so teaching and assessment can be guaranteed in any scenario. Thus, remote tools have already been tested and put into practice at the disposal of all university members, as well as incoming exchange students. These tools and mechanisms will make possible to continue strengthening the mobility scheme under the Erasmus+ projects as well as helping the UVigo target new cooperation opportunities and continuing reinforcing existing cooperation bonds with third parties. A 24/7 telephone number has also been made available for students in case of emergencies and Telegram channels and an ad hoc emergencies account are also active and at the disposal of the participants in mobility actions.

-attract talented non-EU students and researchers who can contribute to our growth and competitiveness with their knowledge and skills.

-increase the number of international students at the Universidade de Vigo considering that in some institutions that rate is above 10% of the total number of students enrolled.

-open the Welcome Office to help incoming students/staff with all processes, including help to obtain visas, residence permits and disability attention. A Virtual Welcome Centre will also be made available for exchange students and staff so they can already receive assistance before their departure, together with the assistance already provided by our International Relations Office. A remote welcome event will also be held well in advance and before beneficiaries' departure to Vigo, in order to help them better prepare for their mobility experience.

- increase student credit mobility at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels both quantitatively and qualitatively, to and from participating and non-participating countries, for studies and traineeships in enterprises.

-search for new funding sources, among private and other types of donors and fundraising..

-design projects (also for sports) that will focus in driving innovation through support for entrepreneurial and collaborative education.

-foster a closer collaboration between academia and the businesses, the UVigo will launch a University-Business International Forum, a platform where different business entities and organisations meet together once a year with university staff in order to learn from each others needs (to deliver new and innovative teaching methods and approaches of syllabus and to promote entrepreneurship).

- foster a closer collaboration between academia and rural territories, the UVigo will launch a Rural Residence Campus for International Students, a platform where different Galician villages, HEIs and students meet together in order to provide high quality services to international students from rural.

-continue to develop, in a clear response to matching skills with labour market needs, its internship program, that will provide talented people with the opportunity to work in a entrepreneurial and innovative framework and encourage the development of skills in demand.

-continue with the initiative of the 'Young Ambassadors Group', a group of youth, entrepreneurs and students, benefiting from an exchange experience whose aim is to ponder over innovation challenges and propose recommendations for mobility and contribute to the international image of the UVigo.

-improve our position in international rankings and to actively participate in the EU Multirank.

-contribute to raise the visibility of our university globally and to the EU policies debate.

An important element of Uvigo's mission is to prepare our students for global citizenship, where communication, flexibility, adaptability, mobility and cross-cultural understanding will be increasingly important. Our internationalisation strategy refers to a broad range of international partnerships and exchanges, including mobility, strategic alliances, open education resources and capacity building in other parts of the world. This is summarised in 5 key factors: global vision, commitment, citizenship, entrepreneurship, and creativity.