



Participation in Erasmus+

ESCI-UPF participation in the Erasmus actions intends to reinforce the scope and significance of the institutional internationalisation strategy, through the different Key Actions the institution would like to take part, in the following ways:

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning mobility

1. Foster and diversify mobility of students

ESCI-UPF has currently an important quality worldwide network of academic agreements (more than 40) being half of them within the Erasmus+ programme. All these programmes have essentially implemented the mobility of learners at the undergraduate level and, within KA1, provided opportunities to participants of acquiring and benefitting from an international experience both at the academic and at the personal level. Additionally, under the UPF umbrella, also within KA1 and with relatively small numbers, the ESCI-UPF career service has been providing international professional experience opportunities to students through internship mobility as a way of fostering internationalisation in the path to employment.

Being learning experience in another country for students the keystone of internationalisation within KA1, direct participation of ESCI-UPF in the Erasmus programme intends to enhance and extend academic opportunities for students. Moreover, being internships an essential mandatory requirement in all ESCI-UPF programmes, ESCI-UPF expects to increase the offers and possibilities of acquiring an international professional experience to its students.

Direct participation of ESCI-UPF in the Erasmus+ aims to grant scholarships to all participant students by means of optimally combining the flexibility of funds coming through the KA131 for European mobility and the KA107 for international mobility paying particular attention to inclusion issues and groups with special needs or difficult backgrounds. Furthermore, it is worth to mention that from the very beginning, ESCI-UPF own managed scholarship call and policy has been sensitive to academic excellence but particularly to socio-economic background of students, prioritizing economically disadvantaged students.

In combination with the Erasmus+ programme, the ESCI-UPF Board intends to extend the current tuition fee scholarship policy to mobility with the aim of contributing to break down barriers for those students with fewer opportunities.



The one year Master of Science programme in International Business (jointly offered with the Barcelona School of Management- BSM) features an academic organization in which, considering its length and entangled learning objectives, mobility of students appears as a tight option for them to consider. It is the will of both ESCI-UPF and BSM to explore possibilities of adding an additional international imprint to the fixed curriculum by means of articulating mobility of students and the subsequent direct transfer of credits at the end of the programme.

2. Create internationalisation at home opportunities

Increasing exposure of local students to international experiences will have an additional spillover effect in terms of attraction of international students that will contribute to internationalisation at home. Despite having a considerably high rate of local students with an international experience through direct mobility, there is consensus in the fact that it is by means of internationalisation at home that all students will be able to achieve a global mind and the set of multicultural skills that all ESCI-UPF programmes understand and include as essential competences to operate in a global world. So far, these skills have been featured in the curricula introducing foreign languages as teaching languages (between 50 per cent and 100 per cent of the contents of the different programmes are taught in English), learning of languages as part of the academic objectives in one of the curriculums (Arabic, French, German, Mandarin Chinese, Russian or Japanese), international orientation of the curricula, introducing crosscultural and multicultural skills and competences in the programmes from the very beginning and working them through the different sequences of topics and subjects. On top of that, hosting international students at the ESCI-UPF premises has been crucial. The presence of these students, coming from ESCI-UPF international partners and through International Providers, has generated an international environment that is nurturing the internationalisation at home of all ESCI-UPF students. Furthermore, it is expected that the International Business Programme (specifically designed for international students) will open up to local students as a mechanism to foster interaction and, eventually, increase internationalisation exposure of local students from home.

ESCI-UPF expects that direct participation in the Erasmus programme will broaden and multiply the numbers and therefore the possibilities of interaction of international and local students enhancing internationalisation at home.

Active participation in the successful project of European Universities EUTOPIA will also provide a framework to deepen internationalisation at home by means of digging into co-designing, co-teaching and co-learning courses and modules with the other members of the network.



3. Attract high quality international students to programmes at ESCI-UPF

All undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at ESCI-UPF have an internationally oriented curriculum. Additionally, between 50 and 100 per cent of the content of the programmes at the undergraduate and at the master's level are taught in English. This presents a potential to host degree seeking international students. Whereas the Master programme already attracts more than 50 per cent of international students, undergraduate programmes have the possibility to increase the presence of high quality students coming from abroad rising the profile and reinforcing international exposure of local students. Furthermore, ESCI-UPF aspires to explore double and joint degree initiatives with selected partners in Europe as an effective strategy to offer competitive programmes that attract international students.

4. Staff mobility

ESCI-UPF staff mobility under the UPF umbrella has been so far very limited. ESCI-UPF attempts to promote a more active engagement of teaching and research staff in high added-value projects for innovating and internationalising education. Dissemination of mobility options and fostering mobility of faculty appears to be the first step to achieve this goal. Furthermore, it is expected that introduction of mobility opportunities for administrative staff will reinforce the internationalisation of the institution.

In addition, the agreement signed by UNESCO and UPF includes as a mandate that the UNESCO Chair in Life Cycle and Climate Change at ESCI-UPF must pay special attention to staff interchange and education programmes participation with Region 3 "South-Mediterranean countries" and Region 8 "Latin America". Having our own ECHE will help fulfil this mandate.

All the above actions completely fall within the first three axes of the ESCI-UPF strategic vision for the 2021-2030 period: **Community building** weaving networks and alliances locally but specially at a global sphere; **Without borders** as an aspiration to expand and amplify the collaboration with the international

centres with whom ESCI-UPF has academic cooperation agreements and, related to **Knowledge**, expansion of the internationalisation at home exposure.



Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation among organisations and institutions

1. Excellence innovative cooperation partnerships

As an articulation of the four strategic axes defining the ESCI-UPF strategic plan for 2021-2030, it is of paramount importance increasing the quality and relevance of the international activity by means of participating in the construction of networks of partners that escalate the internationalisation of the institutional activities.

ESCI-UPF, as an affiliated school of UPF, has been very active in EUTOPIA. It is the desire of participants of the project to foster fruitful exchanges within the Universities. Additionally, in recognition of the good relationship between the Universities within the alliance and the benefit for all institutions, students and staff, there is a willingness of some members to commit themselves of deepening the collaboration within the focus of Business and Economics. So far, this cooperative alignment has started working towards co-creating and developing innovative new formats of mobility and already materialized a prototype (ECOTOPIA) that features strong cultural and linguistic modules, as well as international team projects based on the collaboration of students studying simultaneously with one or more professors and/or engaging in peer-to-peer learning conforming a learning community that may be eventually scaled up in KA2 jointly promoted programmes.

This proposal action links specifically with the strategic plan 2021-2030 through **Without borders** axis 2 but also with the **Knowledge** axis 3 by means of understanding innovation and modernisation in education as essential in order to adapt to a new global reality and update both the required learning outcomes and the skills of graduates to fulfil new labour market requirements arising from the COVID-19 crisis.

2. Development of projects with a visionary and far-sighted approach

As an affiliated school of UPF, ESCI-UPF intends to maintain and extend an active role in the EUTOPIA project and foster local and international collaboration by means of designing and developing projects that place student's ideas and initiatives at the core to approach glocal contemporary challenges with a blended mobility approach. As a first step, ESCI-UPF students are participating in the first edition of the currently active course "Glocal Challenges" within the EUTOPIA Open Innovation Challenge.

Additionally, and in the framework of some electives of the curriculums, ESCI-UPF aspires to extend challenges proposed by selected companies to a combination of local and international student teams with a blended mobility approach that will make possible to bring together knowledge to prototype innovation ideas.



3. Deepen cooperation partnerships with current selected European academic partners

Derived from Axis 2, ESCI-UPF aims to explore possibilities of reinforcing and extending current Erasmus+ mobility academic agreements with selected partners with which there is a history of mutual understanding, cooperation and academic alignment towards expanding institutional internationalization by means of co-designing joint programmes in the area of International Business that respond to the

labour market requisites of achieving a more sustainable and competitive growth and eventually that may have a positive impact in all participants.

Jean Monnet Actions

ESCI-UPF currently holds a Jean Monnet module for the 2020-2023 period that responds to various ESCI-UPF's needs and challenges. Firstly, contributing to academic and scientific debate. Secondly, becoming a lever for institutional change, aimed at enhancing teaching quality and innovation. The positive experience and, so far, the obtained results arising from the implementation of this module will definitively imply that ESCI-UPF will opt for other Jean Monnet actions in the time span of the programme.

In addition, ESCI-UPF is currently in its path to complete the implementation of mobility management digitalisation and intends to extend environmental friendly practices to all its activities and, in particular, those related to internationalisation.

ESCI-UPF aims to keep assessing and analysing the portfolio of services provided to international students and staff to improve them and assist in the best possible way all participants' needs and to detect and correct any potential dysfunction.

ESCI-UPF will broaden the information contained in the ESCI-UPF International Students' portal on international agreements, mobility scholarships and EU grants for both dissemination and transparency purposes with the inclusion of the Erasmus Policy Statement.



Strategy, objectives and impact

Mission, Vision and Values of ESCI-UPF

The lack of professionals in international business prepared to face tasks of internationalisation of companies motivated the Catalan Government (Generalitat de Catalunya) and Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) to set up, in accordance with the Decree 320/1993 of 28 December, the public consortium

Escola Superior de Comerç Internacional (ESCI-UPF). The preamble to this decree stated that the "work being carried out by the Generalitat de Catalunya in the educational aspects of international trade covers all educational levels, except those of a higher university type, which do not exist in Catalonia, nor in the rest of the State, unlike other EU countries "also expressing the will to continue contributing to the promotion of international trade studies" as a fundamental instrument for the competitiveness of our companies ", through the creation of a consortium that covers international trade studies at the university level ". The aim of the consortium is "the promotion of international trade studies within the territorial scope of Catalonia and the exercise of teaching activities in this field through an international business school attached to Pompeu Fabra University".

By means of the Decree 320/1993 of 28 December, the consortium Escola Superior de Comerç Internacional (ESCI) was created with the participation of Pompeu Fabra University, the Catalan

Government Generalitat de Catalunya - through the departments responsible for the internationalization of Catalan companies and universities -, the Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and

Navigation of Barcelona, the General Council of Chambers of Catalonia and PIMEC, Catalan SME employer's organisation. By means of the Government Agreement 95/2020 its board is presided by the Rector of UPF. The aim of the Consortium is the support and management of ESCI-UPF of which it is the owner, having the following mandates:

- a) The promotion of international trade studies and those other areas that are considered strategic for the internationalisation of Catalan companies, within the territorial scope of Catalonia and the exercise of teaching activities in this field through an international business school attached to UPF.
- b) Carrying out seminars and conferences in the field of international business.



- c) The provision of training and research services within the international area of companies that covers any area of business management, environmental management, sustainability and international relations.

As a school of international business servicing the community, ESCI-UPF's MISSION is to train people in values, skills and knowledge to enable them to face the professional challenges posed by a world in constant transformation. With the incorporation of the Bachelor's Degree in Bioinformatics in 2016,

ESCI-UPF expanded to areas beyond international business. The strategic plan for 2021-2030 defines further directions of growth.

ESCI-UPF aims, as a VISION, to be a community of knowledge that wants to consolidate, share, expand and project this knowledge, with local roots, international projection and a desire for excellence.

This community must be a meeting point for actors who share the following values:

- ETHICS: Respect, Tolerance, Diversity, Sustainability
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Curiosity, Critical Spirit, Creativity, Initiative, Taking on Challenges
- RESILIENCE: Commitment, Effort, Adaptability and Problem Solving
- WILL TO SERVICE: Responsibility, Empathy and Humility.

Strategic Vision

As part of the global strategy of the UPF, ESCI-UPF, as a School attached to this university and part of the UPF Group (set of institutions and centres specialized in teaching, research and transfer of knowledge that have their own legal personality), has raised a set of generic challenges, articulated and developed in the strategic institutional plan 2021-2030, which can be defined around four axes:

COMMUNITY BUILDING, WITHOUT BORDERS, KNOWLEDGE AND IMPULSE, being internationalisation the bridge and link between all of them.

AXIS 1 - COMMUNITY BUILDING: Identification of what ESCI-UPF has built, weaving networks and alliances. The vectors that make up this axis are diverse: students, alumni, staff, faculty, companies, UPF, ESCI-UPF board's member organizations and international partners.

Taking advantage of the size, flexibility and versatility of ESCI-UPF, we seek to build and strengthen a community that would go from high schools, through our local and



international students, alumni, companies and institutions that welcome our students in internships or hire them when they finish their studies. In this community building axis, our more than 40 international partners worldwide (half of them through the Erasmus+ programme) and their corresponding stakeholders, must also become key actors.

Increasing mobility of students and staff, development of new projects, deepening cooperation partnerships and creation of new alliances shall create and expand, in collaboration with the network of local and international partners, a true global community.

AXIS 2 - WITHOUT BORDERS: Conceptualization and projection of a global perspective from multiple perspectives (geographical, instrumental, etc.).

This axis raises the aspiration to be a university centre of international reference through a medium-term international accreditation; offer more undergraduate degrees entirely taught in English that will attract more students; and, as part of the UPF group, to be an active actor in the EUTOPIA network and to expand and amplify the collaboration with the international centres with whom ESCI-UPF has academic cooperation agreements.

The permeability of the ESCI-UPF community, the Europeanization of the curriculum (through the Jean Monnet module) and an internationalization beyond Europe shall furnish a true Erasmus international dimension and imprint to the institution and to all its activities.

AXIS 3 - KNOWLEDGE: Conceptualization of static issues related to knowledge.

This axis includes the implementation of new teaching and innovative methods in order to continue to be a benchmark in the way of teaching, taking advantage of the flexibility and ability to introduce changes quickly unfolding all the potential of the teaching competences of ESCI-UPF faculty. As for teaching and learning, expand internationalisation at home initiatives becomes a keystone and a priority. Finally, following our aim for sustainability, we seek deepening knowledge through research and passing it to our students by adapting our contents to these new ways.

Direct participation in KA2 projects shall provide the mechanisms to move from practice to conceptualization and transfer in innovative education.

AXIS 4 - IMPULSE: Identification of dynamism, of action. Continuous transformation. Adaptation to changes.

This axis includes the vectors of research, consulting, network with technological centres, knowledge transfer, support for the development of the Catalan economy, technological projection, entrepreneurship, teaching innovation, institutional accreditation, etc. that



reinforce education by means of promoting new knowledge in all areas of academic and professional expertise of ESCI-UPF.

ESCI-UPF was born as a business school that has cultivated curiosity, creativity and has always strengthened the critical spirit of its members and adaptation to changes in order to facilitate business entrepreneurship processes through fostering initiatives and taking on challenges. Taking advantage of the mobility and collaboration opportunities derived from the participation in the programme, ESCI-UPF envisages setting up an academic profile, transversal to the whole training spectrum, that nurtures entrepreneurship as a value.

ESCI-UPF relies on two internationally reputed Chairs to conduct high-impact research, the ESCI-UPF UNESCO Chair in Life Cycle and Climate Change and the MANGO Chair in Corporate Social Responsibility that have set their own style in the world of business management. The UNESCO Chair in Life Cycle and Climate Change is a centre of excellence in environmental assessment, eco-design, environmental communication, and their applications to climate change mitigation. The Mango Chair develops knowledge on the best ways to integrate CSR into international business management and their more and more globalized supply chains. Currently, its activity is focused in four lines: CSR in the international context; practical implementation of CSR; CSR and stakeholder collaboration; and social impact measurement in monetary terms.

Via consortium agreements in European research projects, ESCI-UPF enlarges, year by year, a deep network of research partners all along the EU. It is necessary to deepen in this community of interests and values contributing with new knowledge and with projection to all the Catalan economy and the society and with application to its prosperity, well-being and internationalisation, always in a global perspective.

The ESCI-UPF internationalisation strategy, embedded in the above four axes of the institutional strategy to be implemented in the 2021-2030 period, places and understands internationalisation at the core of the institution as leverage for transformation and modernization, in line with the European Universities ambition.

Since its creation in 1993, ESCI-UPF as the international business school affiliated to UPF has been deploying an important international activity in terms of mobility flows of students under the UPF umbrella. Also, as an affiliated school of UPF, ESCI-UPF is currently having an active role in the European Universities project: EUTOPIA. By holding its own ECHE and, therefore, having a direct participation in the Erasmus programme, ESCI-UPF aspires to extend quantitatively but specially qualitatively its current



international activity and profile to a higher level and, tuned with the internationalisation strategy of UPF and EUTOPIA partners, to maximise internationalization possibilities.

Indicators

The Erasmus+ programme timeline falls within the settled 2021-2030 period for the institutional strategic plan. By holding its own ECHE, ESCI-UPF intends to endeavour a complete transformation of its internationalisation strategy by including internationalisation dimensions to most of its activities and maximise participation and involvement of all its stakeholders, particularly, students and staff but also international academic partners and partner companies.

From a quantitative perspective:

Regarding students, ESCI-UPF aims an increase in mobility of students and sets a target of more than 80 per cent of graduates at the undergraduate level benefiting with a mobility experience (either through an academic stay or an internship experience, or a combination of both) by means of maximising the possibilities associated to the combination of KA131 and KA107 funds. Furthermore, by the end of the programme, ESCI-UPF aspires to double the current numbers of participants' in international internships under the programme.

At the master's level, ESCI-UPF envisages to explore possibilities of including mobility of students and directly transfer the obtained credits into the curriculum and aims to achieve that around 20 per cent of graduates have a mobility experience (either academic or with an internship experience).

As a complementary internationalisation mechanism of the students' curriculum, it is expected that blended mobility projects should benefit all students enrolled in at least two courses of the different academic programmes per year.

ESCI-UPF staff mobility for teaching and training has been minimal and irregular in the past. Holding its own ECHE and given its faculty and staff size, ESCI-UPF intends to stabilize and maintain a regular mobility activity of at least 2 participants per year by means of exploring and proposing a project based approach with European partners to potential participants.

ESCI-UPF currently holds a Jean Monnet module "Knowledge and Innovation for the European Trade Challenges" (Project Reference: 621100-EPP-1-2020-1-ES-EPPJMO-MODULE, Start: 03-09-2020 - End: 02-09-2023, <https://www.esci.upf.edu/en/eukit/eukit-introduction>)



The module seeks to contribute to the internationalisation of ESCI-UPF and to the consolidation of solid scientific networks as well as the involvement of the institution in the growing social demand for reliable and quality information about global trade. The experience accumulated so far, and the interesting feedback received in relation to many of the actions undertaken, constitute a clear incentive for ESCIUPF to consider to respond to new calls within the Jean Monnet Programme.

ESCI-UPF intends to opt for the development and consolidation of at least two KA2 innovative projects during the programme. Formalization and materialization of the ECOTOPIA prototype and co-design of joint programmes with selected current partners appear as two transformative projects to start with

Directly related with the above targets, but from a more qualitative point of view, diversification and inclusion of any student in the programme, regardless of social background or any other condition, becomes paramount. Erasmus grants in combination with the ESCI-UPF scholarship programmes are the keystone to achieve full inclusion.

ESCI-UPF aims to increase international exposure of local students by maximising internationalization at home initiatives.

Taking profit and in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Life Cycle and Climate Chair and MANGO

Chair in Corporate Social Responsibility, ESCI-UPF expects to add value to its programmes by exploring education projects with its academic partners that tackle contemporary challenges that fall within the current UE 6 Commission priorities with a blended mobility approach.

Also, as a member of the UPF group and taking advantage of its interconnection with the local productive sector, ESCI-UPF intends to broaden its participation in EUTOPIA through the design and development of formative projects that reshape the international collaborations of the institution.

Exploring, designing and implementing joint programmes with selected partners, as an essential development axis of the strategic plan 2021-2030 appears as a critical internationalization dimension to dive into during the programme timeline.

In line with the principles of the ECHE, as it has done in the past with projects on greening events, calculating its carbon footprint, etc, ESCI-UPF will promote environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme.

These targets are intended to be addressed step by step.



In the first phase, and for the period 2022-2024, ESCI-UPF will focus in keeping and increasing quality mobility opportunities and flows of students and internship possibilities. For the same period, it is intended to amplify the internationalization at home of current implemented actions and to generate high value staff mobility options.

Also, full completion of the digitisation process in the management of international activities is expected to be achieved by the end of 2022.

Within EUTOPIA, full definition and pilot implementation of the ECOTOPIA project is expected to be ready and start at the beginning of the academic year 2022-2023.

Also, in the mid-term (2023-2025), ESCI-UPF intends to have an active participation in other EUTOPIA projects to experiment and test new concepts and models, as well as exchange and learn from each other, in order to achieve relevant experiences to build and scale up. Taking advantage of the fluid connection of ESCI-UPF with companies (local and international), organisations and public administrations, their involvement appears imperative.

ESCI-UPF will initiate the exploration stage with partners to develop joint and double programmes from the very beginning. Full definition and implementation is foreseen to be achieved in the long term by 2026-2027.

By the end of the programme, ESCI-UPF is aiming at transforming the institution from within and achieving a qualitative shift in the internationalisation of the different graduates' curriculums as well as in teaching methodologies.