

University of Oslo's Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027

A leading research-intensive, comprehensive European university

Since its foundation in 1811, the University of Oslo (UiO) has studied, challenged and shaped Norwegian society and developed knowledge of value for the entire world. The quality and breadth of research and education places UiO in a unique national position and forms the basis of UiO's status as a leading research-intensive, comprehensive European university.

UiO long-term strategy is set out in *Strategy 2030, Knowledge – responsibility – commitment: For a sustainable world*.¹ Based on four interdependent ambitions for the further development of UiO, *Strategy 2030* emphasizes the close integration between research, education and societal engagement in all areas of activity.

The University of Oslo will:

- Promote independent, ground-breaking, long-term research
- Educate students with the knowledge, ability and willingness to create a better world
- Strengthen its dialogue with the outside world and work to ensure that knowledge is put to use in society
- Be an innovative organisation and an attractive educational institution in which to work and study

Through its educational activities, UiO aims to educate students with the knowledge, ability and willingness to create a better world. UiO will offer research-based teaching at a high international level that empowers the students to see their own learning in a wider societal perspective and lead the way in the green shift. The connections between study programmes, research activities and working life will be strengthened, and teaching will be renewed to encompass the need for interdisciplinary approaches to solving global challenges. In modernising its programmes, UiO will employ learning methods and forms of assessment that activate the students' knowledge and experience, and promote exploratory and innovative modes of learning that motivate the students and help them become a resource to each other. UiO will also provide a flexible offering of research-based continuing and further education.

The societal challenges of our times require global solutions, and UiO will renew its international educational cooperation. Through strengthened European cooperation, UiO will reach out globally in new ways and with a greater collective power than today. Together

¹ [Strategy 2030 - University of Oslo \(uio.no\)](https://www.uio.no/strategi2030/)



with other research-intensive universities, UiO will facilitate integrated courses of study across languages, national borders and subjects.

Related to this goal is UiO's strong ambition to strengthen its societal engagement and dialogue with the outside world. UiO will contribute to sustainable societal development and the green shift, and contribute to value creation and new jobs through innovation and entrepreneurship. UiO will be present where important discussions take place, and contribute to knowledge-based dialogue and opinions. Through open science, UiO will work to establish the basis for a knowledge-based democratic society and knowledge-informed decisions.

Goals for UiO's participation in the Erasmus Programme

Internationalisation is integral to the development of a modern, open university in line with the strategic priorities set out in *Strategy 2030*, and the Erasmus Programme will remain the most important vehicle for the internationalisation of educational activities at the University of Oslo.

European Universities Initiative

Leading a consortium of seven research-intensive, comprehensive European universities, UiO was awarded Erasmus funding in the 2020 call to form a European University under the name Circle U. The vision of Circle U. is to create a European University where students, staff and partners from civil society, businesses and the public sector jointly develop competencies and solutions for keeping Europe and our planet healthy, peaceful, democratic and prosperous.

International learning experiences are of paramount importance to foster a mind-set that enables students and staff to think and act effectively in a multicultural environment, and the Circle U. partners aim to greatly increase the number of physical and virtual student and staff mobilities.

Besides mobility, Circle U. will emphasise the development of transnational, research-based and challenge-based learning activities, co-creation of knowledge with external stakeholders, and the development of a common scientific agenda. Circle U. is an alliance of research-intensive universities who share an ambition to teach not just research-based, but research-integrated. Students will be engaged in the research process, as the curiosity and critical thinking vital to the research process are equally important to competences in the future labour market. The students will produce solutions to real problems related to sustainability, and will interact with researchers and external stakeholders in producing new knowledge.

As supporting structures, Circle U. will build a joint framework of inclusive policies, procedures and infrastructures to form the organisational basis for shared learning activities across a wide range of areas and create a sense of belonging between our communities. The Circle U. partners will jointly develop mentoring activities and programmes aimed to strengthen social and academic integration, increase educational attainment and improve student retention.

Circle U. will integrate cross-border mobility, co-creation with external stakeholders and challenge-based learning in the joint development of inclusive, high quality, programmes of study. This transformation of curricula and teaching methods towards sustainable education practices closely aligns with the priorities of the European Education Area². Moreover, Circle U. also aspires to be a proactive agent in defining the future development of the European Education Area. Circle U. will create arenas for critical dialogue between politicians, students, private and public enterprises, university leaders and academics, civil society and entrepreneurs on the role of higher education in creating a sustainable world.

Mobility in all programmes

As a large, broad-based university, UiO's institutional ambition as a European University is complemented by an approach to mobility tailored to the specific needs of different subject areas. The large majority of UiO's inter-institutional agreements are initiated and maintained in bottom-up processes, based on scientific priorities at the departmental level. UiO will continue to combine top-down and bottom-up initiatives to ensure that all students and staff have the opportunity to spend a period of time studying and/or working in an international context for the purpose of learning, research and/or professional development. UiO will continue to develop mobility windows and subject-specific mobility recommendations for all students in all programmes. We will aim to greatly increase the number of outgoing student mobilities, so that mobility becomes the norm rather than the exception. We will also continue to receive a large number of international exchange and degree students on our campus, and work for their successful inclusion in a truly international learning environment for all students.

Besides semester mobility, UiO will place greater emphasis on the development of short-term, blended mobility, combining digital learning collaboration with physical mobility. In line with our ambitions for increasing the working life relevance of our programmes, we will also continue to expand the number of student placements and staff exchanges with civil society organisations, businesses and the public sector.

² [European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e300197/1648744/1648744_en.pdf)

International cooperation projects in teaching and training

During the 2014-2021 programme period, the University of Oslo has engaged in a wide variety of partnerships and cooperation projects within the Erasmus Programme. We will continue to let our students and staff set the agenda for our future project cooperation in all parts of the Erasmus Programme, based on their relative strengths and scientific priorities within the different subject areas.

In line with the strategic priorities set out in *Strategy 2030*, UiO will particularly promote cooperation projects that integrate education, research and innovation activities in interdisciplinary approaches to solving global challenges. We will also continue our long tradition of promoting cooperation and capacity building projects with institutions in developing countries, based on academic quality, reciprocity and sustainability.