

### Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

VIA University College is a merger of five distinguished University Colleges in central Jutland, Denmark. The merger will legally take place as of 01.01.2008. The merging institutions, which all have had an ERASMUS University Charter previously, are:

DK VIBORG<sub>05</sub>, CVU MIDT-VEST

DK SILKEBO<sub>04</sub>, CVU ALPHA

DK HOLSTEBR<sub>07</sub>, CVU VITA,

DK ARHUS<sub>25</sub>, JYSK CENTER FOR VIDEREGAENDE UDDANNELSE

DK HORSENS<sub>03</sub>, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE VITUS BERING DANMARK

VIA University College will become the third largest educational institution in Denmark within higher education holding around 16,000 students spread across 7 campuses in central Jutland. The University College is organised in four faculties and two divisions. The faculties are:

- 1) Faculty of Health Sciences offering degree courses in medical laboratory technology, nutrition and health, nursing, occupational therapy, psychomotoric therapy and physiotherapy.
- 2) Faculty of Education and Social Studies with degree courses in teacher education, social education, social work textile craft and performance.
- 3) Faculty of Technology and Business with degree courses in Engineering, Architectural Technology and Construction Management, Value Chain Management, AP Degree in Marketing Management, Production Technology.
- 4) Faculty of Performing arts with degree courses called The Animation Workshop.

The two divisions are organised in:

- a) Research and Development
- b) Further and Continuing Education.

The international strategy of VIA University College aims at

- providing all students with international competences through their degree programmes
- improving staff members' international qualifications during their employment
- developing and implementing an international dimension in all degree level curricula
- supporting and incorporating of best practice, quality and international skills in all curricula
- providing high quality service for all students
- generating of leadership and participating in international projects in cooperation with key partners.
- becoming the prime university college in Denmark

Within the LLP Programme VIA University College will,

- continue the already established significant network through bilateral agreements with universities and higher education institutions in Europe
- increase the number of in- and outgoing students and lecturers. Visiting lecturers are expected to take an active role in developing a high academic standard of 'internationalisation at home' in order to provide students and colleagues with professional inspiration, and overall raise the scientific level in degree programmes.
- continue further development of educational competences for lecturers by use of Grundtvig and Comenius grants for in-service training. Continue development, network and research projects, co-

funded by EU multilateral programmes. VIA University College intends to involve administrative and technical staff in mobility activities by use of the new Erasmus actions.

The approval of a new Erasmus University Charter and the Policy Statement will be covered in VIA's newsletter and the EPS will be published in VIA's website and intranet.

It is central for VIA University College to respect all applicable national and international laws on non-discrimination. VIA does not knowingly violate such laws in its employment and educational activities. Nor knowingly does VIA discriminate on the basis of race, religion, colour, gender, sexual preference, military status, age, national or ethnic origin, disability or handicap.

All course activities which are performed in connection with Erasmus student exchanges are planned in advance through Learning Agreements and fully recognized if successfully completed. All course activities are registered in ECTS credits.

All curricula include information about the options for study and practical placement abroad. Outgoing students are informed about the options at websites, information meetings and through individual counselling. At each faculty an international coordinator is appointed specifically to help and advise outgoing students on academic and social matters.

Incoming students receive extensive support from the Student Service department as well as from the international officers. The Student Service department provides accommodation to all international students and offers assistance and advice on other practical issues. In cooperation with the Students' Union, VIA arranges social events for international and national students - like sports events, parties and excursions. The international officers help international students set up a suitable study programme and solve other academic questions.

All international students are offered an English language course for at least the first semester of their stay. For the past few years, campus Horsens has been selected as a host institution for the annual European Intensive Language Course (EILC) course in Danish language and culture.

Regular evaluation meetings with exchange students as well as visits and staff exchanges to and from partner institutions contribute to ensure the high quality of mobility activities and that the expectations of both outgoing and incoming students will be met to the greatest possible extent. The international coordinators assist staff members in planning visits and exchanges and the international activities of the staff are acknowledged as part of their teaching obligations.

Some of the institutions, merged into VIA University College, have participated in the Leonardo da Vinci programme for a number of years and through this programme gained a lot of experience in sending students to practical placements in other European countries. All curricula of our professional bachelor programmes include at least one obligatory period of practical placement of in-between 3 months and one full semester.

Students going abroad for their practical placement are met with the same demands and offered the same counselling as students who carry out their practical placement in Denmark. The educational programme of the practical placement must be agreed with the company/host institution in advance and approved by the placement coordinator at the University College as part of the student's study programme. Students applying for an Erasmus grant for their practical placement may ask for advice from the international office concerning practical arrangements – accommodation, insurance, etc. – but they will be responsible for making the arrangements themselves.

On completion of the practical placement, the student must prepare a report on the placement. In most degree programmes the report forms the basis of an examination where the student has to present the report and will be asked questions afterwards. At the examination the students receive a mark or approved/not approved, as in other modules of the study programme. Students having received a grant for their placement period must also prepare a report and an evaluation to the international office. The students' evaluations will be used to ensure that the information to students is adequate and that application procedures are working satisfactorily.