

# Erasmus Policy Statement

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Gdańsk School of Higher Education (GSW), since its establishment in 2002, has developed its own structure and system of academic activity. It has brought new permanent cognitive and educational elements into the academic heritage and is actively involved in the integration of the Pomeranian scientific community and especially of its capital, the city of Gdansk. GSW's core values are: the rational pursuit of truth, adaptation of the best practices in science, modern education for the civilization and social development, mutual respect and trust, and solidarity of the entire academic community. The GSW mission is to educate professionals serving the needs of a modern state and region – the structures within the united Europe. The goal in the field of education is to equip graduates with comprehensive knowledge, skills and competencies necessary in social and economic life based on knowledge. GSW prepares graduates to undertake various administrative, educational and engineering activities, which involve solving complex problems of economic, social and technical nature at the local, regional, European and international level.

To achieve the above, GSW increases its attractiveness by improving the quality and accessibility of educational offer and by increasing students and staff mobility, both in terms of educational mobility and professional development. This is mostly to be achieved through participation in European and international programmes.

GSW's international strategy includes:

- Enhancing students, teachers and administrative staff mobility which leads to acquisition and exchange of educational and professional experience;
- Improvement of study programmes, courses, teaching methods, in cooperation with international partners through the exchange of experiences;
- Expanding the educational offer for international students by increasing its attractiveness and promotion by teachers during mobility;
- Intensification and enrichment of cooperation with foreign HEIs which fields of education are consistent with GSW' profiles;
- Intensification of cooperation with international partners, which results in joint programmes, international research, increase in students and staff mobility;
- Supporting teachers/students participation in international research and scientific events;
- Providing possibilities for students to gain professional skills during their studies by means of European traineeships and work placements mobility;
- Inspiring mobility of students of all cycles, both outgoing and incoming, for study and traineeship, in order to develop practical skills and increase employability;
- Permanent promotion of lifelong learning through international projects.

GSW aspires to develop cooperation with partner institutions from EU and non-EU countries which represent corresponding educational and research areas and considers Erasmus programme as the main tool for mobility. All students and staff are invited to participate in mobility activities. Through student/teacher/staff exchange and participation in international projects GSW aims to increase its activity and become an important partner for institutions from different parts of Europe. International cooperation and participation in the EU programmes requires the academic quality to be constantly developed and promoted outside GSW. The development of international cooperation should lead to a significant increase in students and staff mobility, improvement of education quality, long-term cooperation between institutions in the field of education and research, innovation and exchange of methodologies and good practices. It should help students, teachers, administrative staff to increase their professional, social and intercultural skills and employability. GSW plans to develop strategic partnership with other HEIs, research centers, regional authorities, professional associations and enterprises (in case of traineeships and work placements for students) of the EU and non-EU countries. Constant increase of staff/students mobility, participation in projects with international partners aims at providing education at international level and increase of the number of foreign students. Teachers and administrative staff are encouraged to gain experience in conducting activities outside the country and improve their professional skills and qualifications. GSW supports students mobility which leads to acquisition of professional skills and experience through traineeship in an international environment.

GSW wants to increase the European mobility within programmes directed to students, academic teachers and administrative staff by increasing access to information, counseling, language and cultural preparations. Students and Staff participating in mobility projects across Europe are offered professional help, mentoring and assistance at every stage of mobility.