



# Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

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Since its establishment in 2002, the Gdańsk School of Higher Education (GSW, Gdańska Szkoła Wyższa in Polish) has developed its own structure and system of academic activity. It has introduced new permanent cognitive and educational elements into the academic heritage and actively participates in the integration of the Pomeranian scientific community and, in particular, its capital, the city of Gdańsk. The core values of GSW are: rational search for truth, adaptation of the best practices of science, modern education for civil and social development, mutual respect and trust, and solidarity of the entire academic community. The mission of GSW is to educate professionals who will serve the needs of a modern state and region – the structures within the united Europe. In the field of education, the aim is to provide graduates with comprehensive knowledge, skills and competences necessary for knowledge-based social and economic life. GSW prepares graduates for various administrative, educational and engineering activities, which involve solving complex problems of an economic, social and technical nature at the local, regional, European and international levels.

In order to achieve the above, GSW will increase its attractiveness by improving the quality and accessibility of its educational provision and by increasing the mobility of students and staff, both in terms of educational mobility and professional development. This will be achieved mainly through participation in European and international programmes.

GSW's international strategy includes:

- Promoting the mobility of students, teachers and administrative staff, leading to the acquisition and exchange of educational and professional experience.
- Improving study programmes, courses and teaching methods in cooperation with international partners through the exchange of experience.
- Broadening the range of educational opportunities available to international students by making them more attractive and encouraging teachers to go abroad.
- Intensification and enrichment of cooperation with foreign universities whose fields of education correspond to GSW's profile.
- To intensify cooperation with international partners, resulting in joint programmes, international research, increased student and staff mobility.
- Support the participation of teachers/students in international research and academic events.
- Provide opportunities for students to acquire professional skills during their studies through European internships and work placement mobility.
- Encourage the mobility of students in all cycles, both outgoing and incoming, for study and work placements in order to develop practical skills and enhance employability.
- Permanent promotion of lifelong learning through international projects.

GSW aims to develop cooperation with partner institutions from EU and non-EU countries representing relevant fields of education and research, and considers the Erasmus programme as the main instrument for mobility. All students and staff are invited to participate in mobility



activities. Through student, teacher and staff exchanges and participation in international projects, GSW aims to expand its activities and become an important partner for institutions from different parts of Europe, allowing the implementation of innovative teaching and learning methods that will enhance the quality of education at the University.

International cooperation and participation in EU programmes require the continuous development and promotion of academic quality outside GSW. The development of international cooperation should lead to a significant increase in student and staff mobility, improvement in the quality of education, 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 and administrators to enhance their professional, social and intercultural skills and employability. GSW plans to develop strategic partnerships with other higher education institutions, research centres, regional authorities, professional associations and companies (in the case of internships and work placements for students) in the EU and non-EU countries. Constant increase of staff/student mobility, participation in projects with international partners aims at providing education at international level and increasing the number of foreign students. Teachers and administrative staff are encouraged to gain experience of working abroad and to improve their professional skills and qualifications. GSW supports student mobility leading to the acquisition of professional skills and experience through internships in an international environment. The University is committed to ensuring equal access by removing economic, cultural or physical barriers so that all students have an equal opportunity to participate in the Erasmus+ Programme.

GSW aims to increase European mobility within programmes aimed at students, academic staff and administrative staff by improving access to information, advice, language and cultural preparation. Students and staff participating in mobility projects across Europe will be offered professional help, mentoring and support at every stage of their mobility. At the end of the mobility, the University undertakes to report and evaluate the implementation of the project in a transparent and readable manner.

Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning mobility will be developed through the systematic implementation of GSW Internationalisation Strategy, as well as through the establishment of cooperation with foreign partner universities for the exchange of students and teaching staff. On the basis of inter-institutional agreements, the academic community will continue exchanges with foreign universities, and foreign students and staff from partner universities will be given the opportunity to stay at GSW. All mobilities will be implemented in accordance with the regulations, available on the websites of the home universities. Incoming students will be selected taking into account such criteria as knowledge of foreign languages, high grade point average and the opinion of their supervisor, certifying special achievements and intellectual activity of the student. Recruitment will be conducted twice per academic year, as will the acceptance of nominations and application documents of foreign students.

All information about the opportunity to participate in Erasmus+ Programme will be disseminated through the GSW website (<https://gsw.gda.pl/>), individual student accounts on the University's Office 365 GSW Platform (including the MS Teams application), social media, information sessions, as well as through the University's organisational units, lecturers and the Student Union. The ECHE Charter and the Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) will be available on the website. In the implementation of Erasmus+ Programme, particular attention will be paid to respecting the principles of equal access and non-discrimination and to ensuring the widest possible participation



of students from all fields and modes of study, regardless of social and economic status, gender, race and religion.

Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation among organisations and institutions. GSW is establishing foreign collaborations at a rapid pace, which indicates its dynamic development. When selecting foreign partners, the university is guided by their reputation, past cooperation and related flagship majors. The main goals with regard to academics are increasing the research and development activity of the staff internationally, promoting exchanges with foreign partners and improving the teaching competence of the staff. With regard to students of all levels and all forms of study, the GSW focuses on ensuring access to the teaching process at all levels, especially in the leading areas (Administration, Business Law, Criminology, Management and Production Engineering), as well as on improving the quality of the teaching process, expanding the teaching offer in foreign languages.

Participation in the Partnership for Excellence – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree will enable the creation of modern educational programmes in foreign languages, greater implementation of modern tools in education, as well as raising the level of education in Master Degree programmes. Cooperation agreements in accordance with the statutes of GSW will be concluded by the Rector of the University.

The Rector's Development Representative will refer cooperation proposals to the Quality Enhancement Team (Zespół Podnoszenia Jakości Kształcenia in Polish) for an initial substantive assessment of the possibility of such cooperation. The University Coordinator of the Erasmus+ programme will inform students interested in participating in joint studies about the requirements for participation in the project, carry out project reporting, collect and control project documentation, and create project dissemination tools. The recruitment and qualification process will be based on transparent and fair criteria and will be properly documented in accordance with national and international law. The Rector's Development Representative will be responsible for the substantive implementation of the project. At the end of the project, the Erasmus+ Programme Coordinator will carry out a qualitative evaluation of the project.

Key Action 3 (KA3) – Support to policy development and cooperation. GSW will be able to effectively implement the Bologna Process, use the tools of transparency and recognition of education, and cooperate with European and international networks and NGOs to jointly organise research and education.

In implementing KA3, GSW will adhere to the principles of equal opportunities for women and men, non-discrimination, support students and staff from under-represented groups, people with disabilities and people from disadvantaged groups, and apply the University's policy on equality and non-discrimination.

As part of its Jean Monnet activities, GSW promotes active citizenship and the fundamental values of the European Union regarding respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The development of the Administration and Business Law faculties benefits from strong cooperation with the Pomerania region, significantly developing cross-sectoral cooperation with local authorities, businesses and non-governmental organisations, providing education and research with strong links to the region. The Jean Monnet Action will provide an excellent opportunity to develop studies in cooperation with European partners to deepen knowledge of EU political, legal, economic and social issues.