



## Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

### Overall strategy

The main lines of the international strategy of Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC BarcelonaTech) for the period 2008-2015 were drawn in the Plan for international Policy, approved by the UPC Governing Council on October 2008. The Plan is structured into three axes developing the international projection of 1) the institutional culture, 2) the education and the research activities and 3) the institutional networking and mobility of faculty, staff and students. The progressive implementation of this plan has led to a highly internationalized institution, with 31% of master students and 48% of PhD candidates being of international origin. The number of masters completely taught in English is 27 (out of a grand total of 64 master programs). UPC participates outstandingly in the Action 1 of the Erasmus Mundus program (13 masters and 7 PhDs), which is one of the key performance indicators for our international achievements. UPC is also involved in many research projects and initiatives granted by different European agencies (all the schemes within FP7, one of the currently ongoing EIT's KICs, ERC individual distinctions...). The international opening of the institution allows improving UPC's educational offer. In particular, the internationalization adds complements to the skills of our students and adapts the training schemes to the societal requirements of our regional context. Moreover, the research and innovation activities benefit from the international projection.

The international partners of UPC are mainly Technical Universities and HEIs. This is not precluding fruitful partnerships with comprehensive Universities having educational and research activities in Engineering, Architecture and Applied Sciences. The main partners participate with UPC in active networks. It is worth mentioning the following international networks: CLUSTER, T.I.M.E., MAGALHAES and CINDA. UPC also participates in two consortia with most prestigious Chinese Higher Education Institutions. We also participate in larger associations like CESAER and EUA. The collaboration with European HEIs is currently in a mature phase. Student mobility in the European framework has become a natural activity. In particular, UPC benefits from approximately 90 active double degree schemes with European HEIs. In each batch of incoming and outgoing students, a number of them follow one of these double degree itineraries (most of them following the T.I.M.E. chart). The diversity of the Schools and Faculties in UPC, and the corresponding variety of degrees awarded, favors having academic exchanges with different types of HEIs.

In the last five years, UPC has aimed at two main geographical areas: Asia (especially China) and Latin America (Brazil, Mexico, Chile and Argentina). The relations with these areas have delivered fruitful agreements and have allowed establishing a number of well-structured mobility schemes. In particular, with a network of selected and prestigious Chinese Universities. These academic schemes culminated in a first double degree agreement with a Chinese University (with Tongji University, in Civil Engineering). Further double degree agreements are currently in an advanced discussion phase, both with Chinese and Brazilian Universities.

The mobility schemes in the bachelor degrees ("grados", having a duration of four years as enforced by a Spanish law) are mainly concentrated in the third and fourth year of the studies; often for the final project. In some of the degrees, mobility is compulsory. There is a mismatching with the other countries in Europe (in most of the neighboring countries the duration of bachelors is three years), both for incoming and outgoing mobility. For instance, in many cases, the fourth year student fits better into a master program than into a bachelor.

Mobility during the master is much easier, because the standard duration is two years. We are currently favoring a scheme for double degree in the bachelor plus master integrated program, with the structure 3+2+1, that is: three years of local bachelor; two in the partner institution (either bachelor + master, or only master); and one year back in UPC. With this scheme, the mobility for UPC students is shared within bachelor and master, satisfying the requirements of both. Mobility in the PhD follows a different strategy. Frequently, the PhD mobility adopts the form of a co-tutelle agreement, involving two advisors from two institutions. The specific conditions concerning schedule, registration, degree awarding and IP aspects are set in each agreement.

With respect to faculty and research staff, mobility is conceived as an already natural part of their activity and therefore no incentive is really required. UPC has also a mobility plan for the administrative and managing staff. This community is far of being fully internationalized and therefore promoting its mobility is one of the strategic lines.



## UPC's strategy

### UPC's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects

UPC is providing support in terms of advice and legal assistance to any cooperation initiative emanating from the faculty members. A good example of this task is the participation in the Action 1 of the Erasmus Mundus program. In most of the cases, this means supporting a bottom-up initiative, proposed by some faculty member. The inception of the relationships aligned with the geographic and academic strategies described above is also facilitated from the international office through the networking activities (in a top-down direction).

A strategy that highly contributes to consolidate the modernization and internationalization process of the UPC is the creation, on demand from international partners, of strategic alliances for specific projects in areas where UPC is recognized as world reference. Those projects contribute to the institutional building of the partner universities.

## Expected impact

### Expected impact of participation in the Programme on the modernisation institution in terms of the policy objectives intended to achieve

Participation in the program is allowing our institution to make steps forward to the increase of our performance in some of the objectives of the Modernization Agenda. In particular, the international cooperation is adapting our programs to provide the core transferable competences required in high-skill occupations. A good example of this is the training provided at the master level in the field of Sustainable Energy. Our participation in the KIC Innoenergy European initiative has allowed UPC to re-organize all the programs related with Energy Technologies (with a special focus in sustainable and renewable energy). In agreement with the KIC philosophy, these master programs are all oriented to closely relate education, research and innovation, societal impact and business. Thus, these international instruments are one of the main assets to develop in our institutions the knowledge triangle conception.

As mentioned above, one of the main goals of the institutional internationalization is providing to the students with intercultural skills promoting future cross-border co-operation; not only in education, but also in the commercial and industrial activities. An important milestone in this strategy is the establishment of the Sino-Spanish Campus at Tongji University (in Shanghai, in collaboration with UPM).

The international exposure of our institution is an inspiring mechanism to rethink the governance practices and funding mechanisms. For instance, when the Catalan government is studying a pilot governance scheme for a new Campus (currently under construction) conceived as an Excellence Center in Engineering, UPC has arranged an institutional visit to the pioneering experience School of Engineering at the Technical University of Munich. Many lessons can be learnt from the experiences of our partner institutions.