Lund University’s Erasmus Policy Statement, 2014-2020

Part I
Please describe your institution’s international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s), and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees.

Lund University (LU) is a full-scale university that tackles intellectual problems and global challenges based on high-profile research, education, innovation and interaction with society. In accordance with the overall vision to be a world-class university that works to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition, internationalisation is identified as a key strategy for the university.

Internationalisation is one of the strengths of LU and the university already has substantial international links in both education and research, including strategic networks such as the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and Universitas 21 (U21) and participation in national, regional, European and international collaboration programmes. Within the framework of the 2014-2020 EU programme for education and training, LU aims at building on existing and well established partnerships and collaborations within both research and education and further strengthen those where the full cooperation potential has not yet been fully exploited. LU will also actively work for the development of new partnerships on the European and global arenas, based on the principle of mutual relevance and benefits for the institutions and individuals involved. With quality as the guiding light, preference is given to partnerships where there is potential for long-term collaboration and a wide range of joint activities.

Cooperation between universities in different countries helps to strengthen the international community. LU underlines that higher education and research shall contribute to democracy, sustainable development and liberation from oppression. With this in mind, LU aims at a balanced and diverse set of partners, reflecting a multitude of research and educational foci, geographical locations, languages and cultures. LU has, in accordance with its previous internationalisation policy, sustained and further developed collaborations with European partners and North American partners as well as expanded collaborations in regions such as the Middle East, Latin America, South-East and Southern Asia and Central Asia, not least through the participation in the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 and Tempus programmes. For the future, LU aims at building on these collaborations, continuing our long-term relationships as well as creating new ones in emerging regions.

LU seeks to be a truly global university, i.e. to be a global actor as well as making internationalisation permeate all educational, research and administrative processes. A key aspect of this broad goal is to provide students, faculty and staff with opportunities to gain
international experience and to engage internationally, either by spending time abroad or by being exposed to and part of an international environment.

For students, LU aims at significantly increasing the number of graduates with international experience. LU shall place greater focus on integrating periods of time abroad into programmes and courses and increase participation is mobility programmes. We seek to widen the range of opportunities to gain core competences and international experience beyond long study periods, for example through work placements and short cycle mobility, such as summer courses. LU also particularly aims at further developing organised mobility in third cycle education, and to increase the visibility of mobility opportunities and resources for this group of students. Alumni are a resource for internationalisation which will be developed. A key factor for all mobility measures is to ensure availability of funding from the EU, as well as from other sources.

Developing global awareness and an interest in international affairs can also be gained through internationalisation at home. LU seeks to further develop the international learning environment and strengthening the international perspective in education as well as outside the classroom.

Academic staff mobility will be further encouraged and information on opportunities enhanced. LU shall also increase recruitment of both international and domestic students to our international Master’s programmes. We shall develop more joint programmes and joint degrees with universities in different parts of the world.

An important cornerstone for internationalisation is a professional staff and relevant support structures. LU therefore aims at providing increased and diversified opportunities for professional development and language skills, through activities such as job shadowing, study visits, network activities, conference attendance, and exchange of best practice.

Part II

If applicable, please describe your institution’s strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.

With internationalisation as a key strategy to reach the goal of high quality in education, research, innovation and interaction with society, Lund University (LU) has expanded its engagement in international cooperation projects. LU has participated in all major European, Nordic and Swedish international educational cooperation programmes such as; LLP, Tempus, Leonardo, Linnaeus-Palme, and Nordplus as well as activities within the EU Research Framework programmes, both as a partner and as coordinator. Within Erasmus Mundus (EM), LU has to date coordinated 12 and participated as partner in 42 Action 2 projects. LU coordinates 1 Action 1 programme and is partner in 6.

Building on these previous collaborations and experiences, LU seeks to further encourage staff at all levels of the organisation to take part and to coordinate international cooperation projects. Participation in international cooperation projects is a key tool for the modernisation of the involved HEI, for the exchange of best practices and innovations and for strengthening the knowledge triangle. Through participation in cooperation projects, LU also strengthens its visibility and presence as a global actor, and increases opportunities for international engagement of staff and students. It is also a means to strengthen long-term, strategic partnerships as well as establishing new partnerships.

There is project expertise at all levels of the institution, which act as a guarantor for a high quality management. Efficient support structures are available and are continually developed. Resources include both personnel and know-how, and administrative tools such databases
and handbooks. Additionally, LU has well-developed and quality-assured academic, administrative, and social procedures for receiving and sending students abroad which are the result of lengthy experience in serving the needs of diverse populations of mobile individuals from inside and outside Europe.

Part III
Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve.

Increasing attainment levels
Lund University (LU) is a research intense top 100 university with the goal to reach the highest quality in education, research innovation and interaction with society. The university puts effort into attracting students from a broad cross-section of the society. Throughout their studies, students are supported to develop their international, intercultural and entrepreneurial skills.

Improving quality and relevance
The curricula are part of an embedded quality assurance structure and under constant development to reach the highest standard. Innovative learning approaches, delivery methods and collaboration with the surrounding society are part of the university’s strategy to foster qualified skills and competences. The university aims at offering the best opportunities and tools for professional and career development to encourage young researchers to take new paths. LU supports all teaching staff in continuous professional development, through in-house training as well as international benchmarking activities.

Mobility and international cooperation
As part of meeting the overall objectives of reaching the highest quality in education and research, LU builds relationships with universities in- and outside Europe to engage in joint activities for education, research, infrastructure and administration. LU also puts effort into further developing the concept of the global class room – Internationalisation at home – for graduates on all levels as well as the academic staff.

Strengthening the knowledge triangle
Many of the university’s interdisciplinary study programmers are offered in close collaboration with the business sector. In 2011, three of the “Top 100 Global Innovators” named were Swedish companies based in Lund, reflecting the city’s unique, world-class environment for technology, knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship. In the early 1980s Sweden’s first research park, the Ideon research park, was founded in Lund, today one of the most successful of its kind in Europe. Building the MAX IV Laboratory and locating the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Lund present unique opportunities for further strengthening the knowledge triangle.

Creating effective governance and funding conditions
With 8 faculties covering engineering, science, medicine, management, social sciences, fine and performing arts, law and humanities, together with a number of specialised research centres, LU has a breadth of research and a strong cross-disciplinary approach. Collaboration between different parts of the university is a prerequisite for efficient support to the core operations. LU is Sweden’s strongest comprehensive research university and internationally renowned research is carried out in several cutting-edge research fields. Over SEK 4 billion is
awarded annually from different funds. LU is in 23rd place on the European Commission’s list of 50 organisations that receive the most funding form the Seventh Framework Programme.