



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027

The Institute of Hospitality Management (IHM) is a private college, offering 4 bachelor's and 3 master's programs accredited by the Czech Ministry of Education. It is one of the oldest private colleges in the Czech Republic.

The main long-term institution's international strategy and objective is to focus on the development of new partners for the students after the pandemic has slash the main bachelor and master program – Hospitality.

The IHM supports mobility of students, teachers and other staff members to increase its own position in the very competitive European labour market. Mobility is the most important aspect for its participants. Each participant gains their own experience, acquires further language skills and professional knowledge. The IHM motivates its students to increase their expertise knowledge as well as its practical utilization before they enter the labour market. Our aim is to offer a similar level of education to our students comparable to other institutions in Europe. International cooperation can help to reach agreement on certain problems and helps to minimize different views on problems in the hospitality and tourism sector which we currently face. The IHM cooperates with educational, research and development institutions in public and private sector, provides tertiary education for adults and supports lifelong learning as stated in the institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy.

Within Erasmus program, IHM created an international network of 29 partner schools and 5 hotel companies. The IHM prefers quality to quantity regarding to its international partners. The strategy is not only increase quantity but also to improve quality of the cooperation. When considering new agreement, the curricula are compared together with field of study and number of courses or modules provided. Because of the international aspect of the hotel business the school management is aware of the importance of permanent development of the international relations. Participating in the Erasmus programme has been an integral part of the IHM internationalisation strategy.

The IHM wants to be an attractive place to study for its own and incoming mobility students, teachers and other staff members. The IHM further aims at high quality in the organization of student mobility by ensuring equal academic treatment and services to its own and incoming students. Each incoming student will be registered in the local system for the contractual period of study and will be treated the same way as our regular students. Incoming students won't be charged any tuition fees and the transcript of records will be issued for all incoming students. Study and placement periods under the Erasmus framework and also in the partner

institutions receive full academic recognition. We are committed to offer all male and female students and staff as well as disabled students and staff equal opportunities to participate in international activities. Students are equally encouraged to participate either in studies or training abroad whichever suits better for students' curriculum and their own ambitions and their needs are treated individually. It is important that the students, teachers and other staff members are able to understand cultural differences, to know other cultures, foreign working lives and different structures of higher education. This will not only enable to create a modern, interesting and also new kind of learning environment and atmosphere for students, but support the European integrity, too. Receiving visiting lecturers under Erasmus contributes to the international character of education. Opportunities provided to our own academics to visit universities around Europe lead to enhanced cooperation in teaching and in research activities. Administrative staff also benefits from international cooperation activities and so does the college.

The great impact of participation in the programme is on the participants who experience any type of mobility or transposed internationalization at the home institution. European labour market is a very competitive environment where any type of experience form abroad or with students and teachers abroad can contribute to the increase of students' confidence. Meeting English (or a different language) speaking community is the best way to understand the need of formal, but also informal language teaching.

Moreover, we had a great success with some of our students attending the Erasmus mobility programs with one particular Erasmus student which was inspired to start its own business based on the local experience and saw a market gap in the Czech Republic. This entrepreneurial spirit is what we want to support and continue to help students with the development of their own ideas and plans based on their foreign experiences. This can give some of our brightest students with not a great social/family background the opportunity to experience different country with their specific identity and to learn some valuable skills which they would not acquire staying in the home.

IHM is committed to offer opportunity to participate in Erasmus activities to students and staff including participants with fewer opportunities, such as participants with physical, mental and health related conditions, students with children, students who work or are professional athletes and students from all study fields underrepresented in mobility including the ones with fewer opportunities. Moreover, mobilities of students, teachers and other staff members are implemented at the institution since the beginning of Erasmus at the IHM. Different phases of mobility (Selection of participants, Preparation for mobility, Implementation of the mobility activities, Recognition of the mobile students' learning outcomes, Follow-up activities) are always planned to assure quality of the implementation.



One of the goals of the IHM is to create conditions to start double degree program with an international partner. We have started some close relationships with the Slovak and Polish university and expect to develop it into potential double degrees which would further benefit students, academics and employees on the both sides. Moreover, we plan to expand this offer to the western countries such as Germany, Netherlands or France and have already been working on preparing the curriculum which those students on double degrees could follow.

Our commitment to Erasmus program can be seen in the development of our own English programme – Hospitality management which have earned a high reputation among the companies and other universities in the sector. In the future, with the help of Erasmus programme we plan to further develop online mobilities and education for students from all European countries so they could experience the Czech approach to hospitality management, tourism and marketing.

Activities to be carried out are aimed at communication in international environment, different types of mobilities, learning languages, finding new project proposals and involvement in cooperation projects, gaining new skills in learning and teaching.

The objectives of the institutional strategy will be achieved by taking part in the mobilities of students, teachers and other staff members at our partner institutions abroad. Thanks to the mobilities, all participants will gain professional and personal skills for their career and personal life. Involvement in cooperation projects will bring international environment while reaching common goals in the field of hospitality and tourism.

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Results expected from participation in the Erasmus programme:

- Mobilities participants will be better equipped with the knowledge, skills and competences needed in a dynamically changing society that is increasingly mobile, multicultural and digital.

- Enhanced employability and improved career prospects of participants
- Improved foreign language and digital competences;
- Enhanced intercultural awareness
- Teachers and staff mobilities are expected to bring new contacts, new research activities, project competencies and the inspiration for our students.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dávid Melas', written in a cursive style.

Dávid Melas, MPhil.

Legal representative