

If you change your activities or objectives, please don't forget to update the EPS on your website and inform your Erasmus+ National Agency.

Participation in Erasmus+

Fenerbahçe University (FBU) was founded in 2016 by Fenerbahçe Education, Culture and Health Foundation. It is a non-profit university that values education, science, research, and innovation. FBU stands out in the field of health and sports through its organic ties with internationally recognized Fenerbahçe Sports Club and Medicana Health Group. FBU's mission is to learn together, to produce and to share the knowledge, to add value to society, and to be a university that embraces universal values and internationalization. FBU aims to serve as a centre for scientific research and studies that support innovative and entrepreneurial ideas, to create an organizational climate that fosters competition and self-confidence, and to contribute to society in economic and social aspects by supporting academic and personal development. FBU's vision is to raise young people who are academically and professionally competent, who can think and express freely, who are respectful of thoughts, who understand the value of lifelong learning, who have high self-confidence, who have developed communication and interaction skills, who have assimilated ethical values, and who always protect universal humanitarian values. FBU aims to strengthen its students' employability skills, to become a highly respected higher education institution in its geography and the international arena, and to deliver intercultural competencies to its students to thrive in a global society.

As a young institution, FBU is growing rapidly and has five faculties that offer twenty-five first cycle programmes and one Vocational School that offers fourteen short cycle programmes as of 2021. In alignment with the internationalization strategy, the language of the academic programmes at FBU is designed both in English and in Turkish, with nine first cycle programmes and one short cycle programme being offered fully in English. In addition to these programmes, FBU offers a range of courses in English and plans to further increase the number of these courses and programmes for the convenience of international students.

FBU aims to encourage its students to become multilingual individuals by offering courses in English and wishes to promote linguistic diversity within its capacity by offering Spanish, Russian, and Chinese language courses. Enhancing the linguistic skills of FBU students and ensuring that the mobility participants do not face a setback in their integration are of significant importance. For incoming participants, Turkish language courses are available at FBU Turkish Teaching Application and Research Centre. In addition to that, FBU is fully committed to adopting the Erasmus+ OLS in order to improve its students' language skills before and during the mobility.

FBU foresees to enhance its quality standards with participation in the Erasmus+ programme. FBU intends to strengthen itself via being internationally recognized and aims for societal impact through international partnerships. Acquiring an ECHE will help FBU to become an active participant in all three Key Actions of the Erasmus programme, to achieve and sustain quality in education and research at the European standards by following the EU's modernization and internationalization agenda. It will also contribute to FBU's goals of raising academically and professionally competent and qualified people, who protect the values of humanity. The internationalization strategies, as defined in the policy, will support FBU's core values, which are expressed as institutional autonomy, academic freedom and responsibility, internationalization, having a student-oriented approach, encouraging students' participation in democratic life and civic engagement, and valuing pluralism and diversity. Successful international projects, alliances and partnerships will be formed through networks and collaborations to establish strategic objectives in teaching, learning, and research. FBU intends to collaborate with universities and other research institutions through the Erasmus+ programme via the KA1 mobility of individuals with programme and partner countries and will promote intercultural communication and understanding, encourage diversity in the academic and cultural environment and support the exchange of staff and student mobility programmes.

FBU will promote the cooperation project opportunities and will work effectively with academic units on research projects through the university's Innovation and Technology Application and Research Centre. This centre aims to develop KA2 projects such as university and industry cooperation, provide entrepreneurship training for faculty members, students, and different segments of society, and ensure that scientists and students benefit from national and international research support programmes and grant funds. FBU believes that it will contribute immensely to increase knowledge by providing technology transfer at the individual, corporate, regional, national, and international levels and contributing to its international competitiveness by creating a technological and innovative thinking culture. In this context, resources are transferred from FBU's budget to establish new research and application laboratories within different disciplines, and curricula are continuously improved to create novel educational opportunities. FBU's collaboration with Medicana, one of the largest healthcare and education groups in Turkey, already provides FBU students with the chance to gain work experience through internships, projects, and post-graduate employment.

FBU's participation in Erasmus+ projects will comprise a crucial part of institutional innovation, modernization, and internationalization strategy and contribute extraordinarily to staff and students' training and experience. FBU will provide continuous support to faculty and students interested in engaging in these projects during the application and implementation stages and ensure that the

objectives and the priorities of the cooperation projects are communicated thoroughly to all relevant individuals. While FBU understands that staff and students' engagement in European and international cooperation projects are of vital importance and their outcomes are to be seen in the long-term; their impact on individuals will be maximized and benefit all partner institutions and communities. FBU is also interested in applying for KA3 in European Youth Action and Jean Monnet projects and understands the importance of their impact. FBU hosts a Centre for European Studies Applications and Research and have academic staff with EU PhD background. FBU fully believes that KA3 projects will be given the necessary value with this background and the work of the centre in the future. These developments will help our students for development and capacity-building within the framework of ECHE.

Strategy, objectives and impact

FBU understands the importance of internationalization and has therefore included in its Internationalization Policy, which is published on FBU'S website, to offer mobility programmes to its students and staff through European and international networks. In accordance with this policy, FBU's strategy adopts creating a multicultural student experience, facilitating student and staff mobility, supporting international research & development activities with multidisciplinary sustainability and multifaceted approaches. Institutional autonomy, academic freedom, and responsibility, internationalization, being student-oriented, contributing to the accessibility of higher education, being transparent and accountable, valuing pluralism and diversity, instilling a strong sense of social responsibility, advocating universal values by putting great emphasis on professional training of students are the keystones that constitute FBU's objectives. FBU wishes to forge partnerships with institutions from Europe and other developed countries but also targets universities and organisations in developing countries, which include but are not limited to North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia that will address the various expectations and needs of FBU researchers and its students. While establishing connections and agreements, FBU's priority will be to check the academic compatibility of the programmes to select and develop partners strategically. As Turkey is in the European Higher Education Area with the Bologna Process, the primary focus will be given to the EU due to its proximity, and the various advantages of the Erasmus+ programme, and due to the fact that FBU attaches importance to the concept of transparency and transferability. When the primary target is reached, a comprehensive global approach, that is mentioned above, will be followed by FBU. FBU currently has 138 international students from 27 countries and intends to enlarge through recruiting international students, academic and administrative staff via establishing partnerships with internationally reputable institutions through transparent, non-discriminatory policies via emphasizing equality, inclusion, and diversity principles. Following institutional developments will be supported with the acquisition of the ECHE:

- Developing and improving the internationalization policy and process management with internal and external stakeholder views at the university, faculty and programme level, and monitoring and evaluation of all international activities,
- Strengthening the capacity of the Directorate of International Relations,
- Offering education that is accessible to financially disadvantaged groups,
- Supporting necessary mechanisms to serve as an inclusive higher education institution that is connected to society,
- Providing competent and accredited language education in the foreign languages department,
- Providing Turkish language learning for international students, creating opportunities for language learning for national and international students,
- Supporting mobility of individuals and offering a diverse learning and teaching atmosphere, exposing mobility participants to different cultural and educational environments,
- Improving language teaching methods and promoting linguistic diversity,
- Adopting international mobility in the structuring of academic programmes, Increasing the diversity of the learning environment by attracting students, staff and faculty members from different socio-economic backgrounds and cultures,
- Gaining visibility for future collaborations via a prominent European network.

Erasmus+ programme will also help establish the necessary structures to achieve FBU's aim of internationalization and modernization through international collaboration/organisations, international cooperation and capacity-building projects, strategic partnerships, alliances, multinational environment, which are of high importance for our University. The Erasmus programme recognition and the mobility and cross-border cooperation opportunities will be a great contributor to FBU to accomplish visibility and to have collaborations in an international environment. Additionally, memberships in international networks such as Observatory Magna Charta Universitatum, EUA, ACUNS and accreditation of the university's educational programmes at the national and international levels are among the primary medium-term goals of our university. In terms of the accreditation of the programmes, the Engineering Faculty is planning to make an application to the MUDEK (Association for Evaluation and Accreditation



of Engineering Programs), which is a public agency that is recognized by the Higher Education Quality Board of Turkey as the National Quality Assurance Agency in accrediting engineering programmes and is also a full member of the ENAEE (European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education). The Psychology department and the Faculty of Health Sciences will follow and are also planning to qualify for the national accreditation. FBU Foreign Languages Department is planning to qualify for EQUALS: Excellence in Language Education, which is internationally recognized accreditation certificate in the field of language teaching. After being granted national accreditations, FBU will seek international accreditation to distinguish itself and to stay competitive.

The institutional internationalization policy and modernisation principle of FBU aim to bring itself to be one of the prominent Higher Education Institutions of Turkey and the European Education Area. The desire to be included in the common European Education Area targeted by the Commission by 2025 and the involvement in the international organizations (i.e. EUA, European Universities Initiative) that will highlight and support this goal are planned to be achieved as a positive outcome of participating in the Erasmus+ programme. FBU is committed to pursuing the objectives of the renewed EU Agenda for Higher Education for its modernization and in support of the goals of a modern and competitive European Education Area. In line with this goal, one of FBU's societal objective is to contribute to European integration and to train students to be engaged participants in democratic life who will promote European cohesion and common values of the European Union. FBU is dedicated to eliminating all forms of prejudice and discrimination. As such, participants of any religion or belief, gender, colour, ethnic or social background, language, political views, and/or participants with disabilities are welcome to study/work at FBU.

Equality of opportunity, one of the goals of the Erasmus program, is important for FBU. FBU's basic values include non-discrimination and equal access policies, which are completely applied both in education and in the employment of staff, and consequently, FBU has formed a special needs unit which is at the service of its members with special needs. The services provided by the unit aim to minimize the difficulties that staff and students with disabilities encounter during their education and campus life, and to provide cooperation between the relevant parties in eliminating the obstacles. FBU aims to provide equality of opportunity for everyone. Besides offering scholarships, FBU provides its students the opportunity to work part-time at the university. Part-Time work is in use in order for students to gain experience by taking part in the working environment within the university, to develop socially and culturally, to help socio-economic betterment, to earn a certain income. With these policies, which are also supported by the Erasmus + Programme, we target lower unemployment, improved quality of workforce, increased economic activity.

Indicators

As a dynamic institution, FBU is assessing all the programme competencies, academic curriculum, course plans and learning outcomes, as well as the courses, in line with the Bologna Process. The ECTS system is used for credit allocation to be aligned with the credit systems of the European universities to facilitate transparency, recognition and mobility. Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area and the Turkish National Higher Education Qualification Framework are the bases for FBU's academic programmes. In compliance with the institutional internationalization strategy, FBU acknowledges and plans to undertake full use of the digital tools which are supported by the European Commission such as the ECTS system, Europass, and the Diploma Supplement. Moreover, as an ECHE holder, monitoring of all international activities and self-evaluation will be given special importance. All exchange agreements, application, and selection procedures will be in line with the programme rules that are announced by the Turkish National Agency (TR NA). FBU is committed to following these principles and working to have its automation system to be compatible with the exchange programmes system to utilise a transparent, fair and reportable mechanism that also supports the full recognition of the credits taken during the mobility period. The current student automation system (OIS) is an online tool that includes transparent grading schemes and grade distribution information. The OIS will adapt to the credit recognition system of the Erasmus programme once FBU is awarded the ECHE. The mobility of students and staff and the participation in European and international collaborations will be supported with the usage of compatible online systems. FBU declares that necessary actions will be taken for the fair and transparent execution of the rules by the International Relations Directorate (IRD), Quality Assurance Office, Student Affairs Directorate, and Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator. In addition to these units, the strategic planning and budgeting for Erasmus+ related activities and other international activities are monitored by the IRD under the supervision of the General Secretary. The IRD and Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator report to the Vice Rector who is the main person in charge of overseeing the implementation of the internationalization targets. These units will be the key instruments to develop and execute initiatives and projects, as well as disseminating information about opportunities and promoting good practice among the stakeholders of the institution. They will also lead the project monitoring and ensure that necessary reports are submitted to the European Commission and the TR NA. In this context, in order to strengthen the capacity of the IRD, two staff will be hired. The first staff will be hired at the end of 2021, and the other before the mobility projects begin in 2022. FBU will closely observe the international collaborations,

strategic partnerships, alliances and projects with the help of the Erasmus+ Academic Coordinators and the Quality Commission chaired by the Rector that work with the Quality Assurance Office. The institutional Erasmus+ credit recognition mechanism is established and published transparently, as such FBU will administer a fair and transparent selection process for all mobility participants with the support of the Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator, faculty and department coordinators and an office for Erasmus+ and academic collaborations that have already been established. Exchange Programmes Selection Commission and the Quality Assurance Office will monitor the procedures very closely to make sure that the selection mechanism is being operated objectively, impartially and transparently, based on the criteria of the selection of students and staff, all of which will be in line with the programme rules announced by the TR NA. Full recognition will be given to Erasmus+ activities as such, the student mobility for studies and traineeships will be recognized and be recorded in the participants' academic records, DS and Europass. For staff mobility, recognition of activities will be undertaken with the Human Resources Directorate.

Participation in the Erasmus+ programme will provide FBU increased visibility in the international network and help FBU to boost the student and staff mobility numbers. The Erasmus+ projects will include measurable objectives and suitable timelines for achieving the targets. The mobility target is set as %5 percent of the students within 5 years, however, FBU aims to gradually increase the percentage. To achieve this target, FBU will be actively engaged in developing Erasmus+ IIA's with institutions from programme and partner countries during 2021-2027. FBU initially aims to sign 5 inter-institutional agreements in the first year of the acquisition of the ECHE, and 15 additional IIA's will be established to reach the target. Through agreements, a wide range of cooperation networks will be established for the convenience of students and staff, and the impact of Erasmus+ activities will be maximized with dissemination strategies. The impact of the Erasmus programme on participants will be measured and monitored via measurable indicators such as the increase in the number of mobility participants, the number of IIA's, and the number of applications to Erasmus+ call for proposals. FBU foresees improved key skills in the participants which include increased language skills, intercultural awareness, an increased sense of European identity, enhanced employability, and career prospects. The qualitative data will be collected by the IRD through participant's reports, individual or group interviews, surveys, and focus groups and will be analyzed under the supervision of the senior management.

Digital transformation through capacity-building is a priority for FBU. An innovative, creative, and inquisitive scientific education model is adopted to provide students with professional formation, intellectual depth and multifunctional skills through online learning systems. FBU is keen on exploring and offering various forms of international experience through virtual and/or blended educational formats to facilitate flexibility for mobility participants. FBU acknowledges the digital transformation as a priority in line with the requirements of the Erasmus Without Papers Project and as a means of reaching the zero-waste target. By the implementation of digital teaching and learning, FBU is convinced that an increasing number of students and staff will be eager to experience blended mobility schemes. Consequently, FBU is committed to supporting the European Student Card initiative as well as the Erasmus+ mobile app and Erasmus Dashboard in order to digitalize all relevant mobility information as well as the sharing of the documents with all partner institutions in accordance with the Erasmus+ programme needs. The European Student Card requirements will be met by FBU to facilitate learning and training mobility by digitalizing all the main components essential for students to conduct all administrative procedure related to their mobility period. The application process and the information given through the Erasmus+ mobile app will be visible and related with the Erasmus+ procedures. The "EWP" principles are taken very seriously both on the digitalisation perspective and for environmental reasons. In this regard, the fight against climate change, eco-friendly zero-waste solutions are priorities to raise environmentally conscious generations, to prevent unnecessary paper consumption and to modernize and utilize technology with digitalization through various softwares in practice at FBU.

We expect improvements on key skills such as increased employability, technical, inter-personal and inter-cultural skills and competences, as well as improved self-confidence, ability to achieve goals, and social and cultural openness. Long term effects of the Erasmus+ programme are expected to be improved social skills, soft skills, digital skills, adaptability, language abilities, problem solving skills, planning and organisation skills, critical thinking, openness, creativity, cultural and ethnic understanding, increased sense of responsibility, international employability advantage among the participants. Monitoring mechanisms will be provided through both FBU survey and MT + Participant's Report. We will analyse qualitative data with questionnaires, with those returning from focus groups and Erasmus+ programme.

FBU's multidisciplinary faculties and its close cooperation with the founding Medica Health Group and Fenerbahçe Education, Culture and Health Foundation will contribute tremendously to promoting and enhancing opportunities offered by European and international cooperation projects in order for sustainability and increase in involvement in projects.