



## ERASMUS+ POLICY STATEMENT

### *Politecnico di Torino international strategy*

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Politecnico di Torino strongly believes that mobility of students, professors, researchers and administrative staff has become an essential driver of innovation in society and of quality of higher education system.

Our university is also convinced that a growing opening to international students and researchers and that a common international strategy for both targets are the more adequate means to create a better training and work experience for students and staff.

Politecnico di Torino internationalization strategy is based on various complementary activities. Activities regarding incoming and outgoing mobility are not only directed to students, but also to professors, researchers and administrative staff.

As regards students mobility, use of consolidated means such as the Erasmus program is combined with other mobility opportunities (as Erasmus-Mundus, Tempus...) and a great effort has been made in the last five years to increase the number of international students in our degree courses, with a particular focus toward non EU students. On this side many activities have been set up, namely the on line procedure "Apply@Polito" dedicated to international students enrolment, the opening of Chinese Campuses branches at Politecnico di Torino, the submission and approval of a large number of Erasmus Mundus (24 partnerships, 2 joint Masters, 3 joint PhDs) and Tempus programs (8 projects), the centralized administrative Division dedicated to international affairs.

As a consequence, the percentage of international students has strongly increased and now represents the 16% of students enrolled (an excellent result if compared with the Italian average - 4.5% - and OCSE countries average - 8% -).

Politecnico di Torino now aims to raise the quality of the international stakeholders and consequently will strenghten measures to implement mobility programs with institutions of high repute, also outside EU. In particular, new international partners will be selected among institutions that are in the top positions of the international rankings (eg. ARWU, QS)

On the other hand, all existing partnerships will be analyzed and reviewed in order to evaluate their outcomes and to work on two aspects: the first one is to use agreements focused on study mobility to encourage the development of joint research projects; the second one is to enlarge research agreements to a wider range of opportunities including training and education, with particular regards to integrated learning paths.

The strategy rationale is a stronger link between internalization in research and education; considering that in research-intensive universities, high quality teaching is immersed in an environment of internationally competitive research and education, research and services to society interact intensively and reinforce each other.

On this basis, Politecnico di Torino also proposes to implement processes geared to enhance its capacity to attract international PhD students, through a greater availability of scholarships and dedicated services, and to support a structural policy for the internationalization of the Academic staff, promoting teaching and research periods in foreign institutions of high repute.



As our University holds an excellent position on the education market of specific geographic areas (as China, South America, Europe), our strategy will be focused on one hand on maintaining this status and on the other on trying to develop new relations with academic and non-academic institutions on the developed and emerging markets (e.g. Corea, Japan, Israele, India, Singapore, the Gulf, South-Asia). Initiatives towards these new targets will represent a mix of traditional partnerships schemes - as students mobility and double/joint degrees mainly on second and third level courses - and more complex actions as the proposal of a partnership model covering a wide range of activities such as research, teaching, international mobility and technology transfer, the hosting of foreign companies in Politecnico di Torino campus (Cittadella Politecnica) and the opening of Politecnico di Torino labs abroad dedicated to research, training and technology transfer.

*The Politecnico di Torino plans to implement the abovementioned strategy through the following **LINES OF ACTION***

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**a) Internationalization of study/research opportunities**

- implement and develop new double/joint degree with top ranking foreign universities
- sign reciprocal accreditation agreements with European and non-European universities of repute
- increase learning paths shared with foreign universities at third level courses in order to promote research relations starting from the ones established to build up joint Ph.D.s;
- enhance the University's presence in cooperation programs with national and international Institutions and non-Governmental Organizations

**b) Support international mobility of Politecnico di Torino students and academic staff**

- encourage professors, researchers and academic staff mobility towards European and non-European institutions of repute on the ground of the experience of Erasmus program in terms of recognition of mobility activities;
- encourage student mobility towards European and non-European institutions of repute through a wide range of promotion initiatives.

**c) Attraction of international undergraduate students, graduate students and researchers**

- improve the selection process of undergraduate incoming students enrolling in order to raise their quality;
- stimulate enrolment of foreign students in second and third level courses using customized media and multi-language web promotion;
- develop a network of student promoters and "local managers" in various countries of strategic interest who, being familiar with the requirements of various countries, may promote the University's education opportunities.



The strategy Politecnico di Torino intends to pursue will contribute to the realization of the following **GOALS** indicated in the "Modernisation Agenda":

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- ***Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs***  
A higher level selection standards will have an impact on the general quality of our university outcomes in a double sense:
  1. good international students will have better opportunities to complete regularly their careers. As a consequence, not only the percentage of drop-outs will reduce, but an increasing number of good graduates with an international experience will be available to the global job market.
  2. An international and top quality study environment will also encourage Italian students to better themselves and, again, this can impact positively on their final outcomes and, in general, on their chance to match the market needs.  
Besides, as Politecnico di Torino aims to increase the number of international PhD students from top universities, in the next years international and qualified young, open minded and flexible researchers will be available.
- ***Improving the quality and relevance of higher education***  
Politecnico di Torino will strongly encourage professors and researchers exchanges with European and non-European both in an academic and non-academic institutions. Our aim is to let teaching staff experience a continuous confrontation with diversity of viewpoints in order to enrich scientific discussions and development and to facilitate scientific integration. As a consequence, the quality of professors teaching will enhance and will easily match the global society needs.
- ***Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation***  
Politecnico di Torino will try to maintain its high standard quality in services offered to international students and academic staff in order to facilitate their integration in the University and in a new country.  
This means that all incoming and outgoing people at Politecnico di Torino can benefit from dedicated offices support in bureaucratic matters, housing, academic documents aimed to fully recognize study international experiences.
- ***Making the knowledge triangle work: linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development***  
As explained before, Politecnico di Torino will support the achievement of the "knowledge triangle" proposing to new academic and non-academic stakeholders a unique partnership model covering a wide range of activities such as research, teaching, international mobility and technology transfer and will foster the opening of Politecnico di Torino labs abroad dedicated to research, training and technology transfer.
- ***Improving governance and funding***  
The opening of our university to academic and non-academic collaborations in the emerging markets will encourage search and attraction of new fundings proposing high qualified mobility programs. On the other hand, the continuing exposure to new partners and markets facilitates circulation and exchanges of good practices and positively influences decision-makers and governance.