



Erasmus+

Romanian-American University (RAU) - Erasmus Policy Statement

RAU - International Strategy

The Internationalisation strategy of the Romanian-American University (RAU) was designed according to the managerial program implemented for the period of 2012-2016. RAU internationalization is seen as main vehicle for institutional development and modernisation. As in the last 10 years the European Union Programmes were successfully implemented, the *New programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport 2014-2020 (ERASMUS+)* will be a very important tool for reaching the goals of the internationalization strategy.

The strategic objective is *to strengthen the University's internationalization process*, mainly through the superior capitalization of the partnerships with prestigious HEI, but also by the participation/affiliation in the relevant international networks in order to widen the educational offer, to increase the mobility of staff and students as well as to deepen the cooperation in the scientific research area.

Specific goals are: Using a new and more effective approach for internationalisation; Developing the strategic partnerships in the fields of education and research; Joining specific international networks and associations of HEI or other types of entities, and maximizing the benefits of membership; Certifying the QA process by an international institutional evaluation; Increasing the number of incoming guest professors; Promoting RAU staff mobility in order to create a better environment for teaching and research, as well as offering networking opportunities; Further encouraging student mobility; Launching new study programs, fully taught in English, for both bachelor and master; Prioritising the process of developing joint degree or double degree agreements; Increasing the number of Summer Schools/Intensive Programmes that are organised in partnership with foreign partners; Looking forward to attend the most important events, conferences, meetings and fairs for Higher Education.

The strategy will be enforced by:

- Extending the partnerships with HEI from all over the world by using specific criteria. As there is a lack of partnerships with non-EEA countries, there will be a special focus on this “worldwide” area. One important criterion will be related to the existence of similar study programs that are taught (mainly) in English. Another is represented by international recognition/accreditation and ranking. The other criteria are related to the geographical coverage as we are looking forward for partners from: countries that are not represented yet, states that are targets for recruiting international students, states that are prioritising the research funding, countries that are showing good economic prospective. In order to promote that kind of partnerships, specific financing instruments, under 2014-2020 EU Programme will be addressed;
- Raising the number of mobility, without affecting the quality:
 - Offering more opportunities *for students* in the first and second cycle. Different instruments will be used: Erasmus+ programme, EEA and Norwegian Government Funding, other Foreign Government Funding, bilateral cooperation agreements, etc.; non-discrimination policy will be applied.

From this point of view, it is very important to address the following issues: making potential candidates more aware about the opportunities, continuing and improving the student services, finding solutions in order to supplement the financial support.
 - Increasing and then keeping the number of outgoing *staff mobility* at a high level. For the teaching assignment mobility we will focus on the following objectives: disseminating best practices in teaching methods; attracting incoming students and teachers; exchange of best practices for student mobility. For the staff training mobility we will address goals like: personal development of participants; acquiring new skills that are overlapping with the institutional development needs; launching new cooperation projects. There will be a continuous analysis of staff training needs. Anyway, the following areas for training programmes will be represented as priorities: designing and implementing new curricula (including learning assessment and learning outcomes); project management with special focus on international cooperation (or) research projects; improving language and intercultural skills; developing entrepreneurial skills; strengthening the partnerships with businesses.
- Implementing Joint Degree or Double Degree agreements, and launching new proposals to current or prospective partners: Joint Master in International Cooperation Against Transnational Financial Organised Crime; Double Degree for Master in *Finance*; Double Degree for *Bachelor in Computer Science for Economics, Bachelor in Business Management, Master in International Business*.
- Continuing the multiannual training programme in the field of English skills for staff;
- Creating a synergy between the Internationalisation of Education and Internationalisation of Research.

RAU strategy for international projects

In order to maximize the effects of International Cooperation Projects, the Romanian-American University has settled some institutional priorities that potential projects will need to address. On one hand we will focus on the modernization needs of our institution. On another hand we are looking forward to offer our expertise and knowledge to (potential) partner institution.

From RAU development point of view, the envisaged priorities are:

- To create partnerships with institutions from targeted regions and countries;
- To encourage research projects focused on the RAU main research areas;
- To foster partnerships with companies and local/regional authorities in Europe;
- To develop knowledge alliances in order to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as business support facilities;
- To launch new study programs, fully taught in English that could be offered under joint or double degree agreements; special preference would be given to partners from outside EU;
- To develop an integrated system for on-line education for the first and second cycle, as well as for lifelong learning education.

Expected impact

According to the Strategic Plan of RAU, **the main objectives** go along the axis **stability – creativity – development through creativity and innovation**, so as to ensure a differentiation which relies on the quality of the educational act, thus leading to the identity and prestige of the Romanian-American University in the Romanian and global academic environment.

Thus, the Strategic Plan fits with EU's Agenda for the modernisation of higher education, and it takes account of the EU contribution for diversification, mobility and cooperation. As *the New Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport ("Erasmus+ ")* is one of the main EU's tools to support the agenda, it represents an important mechanism for reaching RAU's objective, besides the other main funding mechanisms of the 2014-2020 Multi Financial Framework like *Horizon 2020: the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation* and *Cohesion Policy Instruments*.

RAU's participation in the Programme will address each priority of the modernisation Agenda. As regarding the *increasing attainment levels*, the focus will be to make the study programmes more attractive, including by providing relevant knowledge, skills and experience. Moreover, a special issue will be to attract more researchers. From the point of view of *improving quality and relevance*, we are looking forward to adapt and develop the curricula to the market needs, for instance by involving business environment representatives in designing the study programmes. Moreover, we are aware of the benefits of ICT to enrich teaching and improve learning experiences. As about Strengthening *quality through mobility and international cooperation* this is also a rationale for our Internationalization Strategy and a specific objective as well. Besides

encouraging the mobility, which is a well known goal for us, we are focusing on attracting the best students, academics and researchers from outside EU. *Strengthening the “Knowledge triangle”* it is also overlapping with our strategic plan. We are intending to develop specific activities to encourage partnerships and cooperation with business, as well as stimulating entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills. In order to *improve the governance and funding* we are looking for a more effective governance and funding system, as well as alternative sources of funding.

From the partners’ modernization point of view, we could offer our expertise as regarding:

- Curricula development;
- Implementing a credit accumulation and transfer system;
- Internationalization