



## VIA University College's Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

VIA University College is the third largest higher educational institution in Denmark with 17.000 students spread across 8 campuses in central Jutland. VIA University College is organised in four schools and faculties and houses 19 research and development centres.

1. **VIA Faculty of Health Sciences** offering degree courses in medical laboratory technology, nutrition and health, nursing, occupational therapy, psychometric therapy and physiotherapy.
2. **VIA Faculty of Education and Social Studies** with degree courses in teacher education, social education and social work.
3. **VIA School of Business, Technology and Creative Industries** with degree courses in engineering, architectural technology and construction management, value chain management, production technology, AP Degree in Marketing Management, textile design, design and business, computer graphics and character animation.
4. **VIA Faculty of Continuing Education** offers a number of diploma degree programmes, courses, conferences, expert advice and theme days.

*(From 1 February 2015 VIA University College is organised in four schools and faculties)*

### International strategy and objectives

VIA has a strong tradition for developing educational programmes in close cooperation with employers, be it private organisations, municipalities, regional, national and international organisations and authorities. Our strength is our combination of state-of-the-art research and learning environments with our understanding of practice-related challenges and opportunities. This position makes it possible for VIA to educate students who are able to solve real-life problems by contributing to innovative and sustainable solutions.

VIA wishes to cooperate with educational institutions and companies in foreign countries to ensure international educational opportunities for our students and thereby ensure the future of the corporate world and society as a whole both nationally and internationally. Around 80 per cent of the international agreements have been formed with partners in the EU, while the rest, among others, have been formed with Australia, Canada, China, the US, New Zealand and Thailand. China has been chosen as a strategic focus country for the academic years 2013-2014

The international strategy of VIA University College aims at

- providing all students with international competences through their degree programmes
- improving staff members' international qualifications during their employment
- developing and implementing an international dimension in all degree level curricula
- supporting and incorporating best practice, quality and international skills in all curricula
- providing high quality service for all students
- generating of leadership and participating in international projects in cooperation with key partners.

Within the Programme, VIA University College will

- continue the already established and significant network through bilateral agreements with universities and higher education institutions and cooperative partners in Europe and around the world
- increase the number of in- and outgoing students and lecturers. Visiting lecturers are expected to take an active role in developing a high academic standard of 'internationalisation at home' in or-

der to provide students and colleagues with professional inspiration, and overall raise the scientific level in degree programmes.

- continue further development of educational competences for lecturers by use of grants for in-service training.
- continue development, network and research projects, co-funded by EU multilateral programmes.
- Continue to extensively involve administrative and technical staff in mobility activities by use of the Programme.

VIA University College has launched a string of initiatives at our five schools and faculties. These initiatives are aimed at achieving the following three strategic goals:

- We strengthen our cooperation with public and private partners nationally and internationally. In this way, we develop new ways of collaborating that meet real-life challenges, create innovation and strengthens the exchange of knowledge.
- VIA develops creative, innovative and entrepreneurial ways of learning that strengthens students' ability to contribute to innovation.
- Together, VIA's students and staff develop world-class education by creating a culture of entrepreneurship, curiosity and innovation.

Internationalisation is an important part of VIA's strategy and activities. Through research and education, we strive to address the challenges and opportunities faced by local, regional and global organisations – such as within health, energy, business, technology and the welfare state. VIA cooperates internationally on research and development projects – and attracts an increasing number of international students and staff.

The purpose of the strategy is to take this development a step further and contribute to an extended integration of VIA's efforts to internationalise its core processes and strengthen VIA's position on the global market for education.

#### **Organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects**

In the coming years VIA will pursue three overall strategic goals to strengthen our position as one of Denmark's largest, most innovative and influential educational institutions. Our goal is not only to educate the most professional candidates for public and private employers, but also to help businesses and society at large meet current and future challenges.

We will do this by building on VIA's tradition of developing educational programmes in close cooperation with employers, be it private organisations, municipalities, regional, national and international organisations and authorities. Our strength is our combination of state-of-the-art research and learning environments with our understanding of practice-related challenges and opportunities.

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#### **The expected impact of participation in the Programme**

*Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs*

VIA focuses on working to fulfil the goal of being among the world's leading providers of professional bachelor programmes and knowledge which both acknowledges and challenges the regional, national and global needs of society. VIA has a solid range of international partners at its disposal and offers half of our programmes and courses in English. Furthermore VIA is among the first Danish institutions with bachelor programmes to establish itself in China with educational offers. VIA cooperates with a number of countries both inside and outside Europe on the development of programmes, exchange, research and development activities with the authorities, educational institutions and companies etc.

*Improving the quality and relevance of higher education*

Our strength is our combination of state-of-the-art research and learning environments with our understanding of practice-related challenges and opportunities. VIA professionally addresses the challenges and opportunities that are attached to an increasing globalisation with regard to energy, technology, health, education etc. VIA offers practical training periods, during which students not only observe but also work with the problems of real life as well as experience dilemmas with the ability to combine theory with practice.

*Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation*

VIA develops attractive and popular educational courses conducted in international study and learning environment in VIA or at partner institutions such as companies or educational institutions abroad that address the challenges and opportunities attached to an increasing globalisation. Internationalisation is a significant part of the development of VIA's educations and professional environments and furthermore helps to attract more students to higher education. Today's market for education inspires students to seek institutions that offer the best education and the most stimulating study environment and VIA provides the best possible options for both our Danish and international students.

*Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development*

We will do this by building on VIA's tradition of developing educational programmes in close cooperation with employers, be it private organisations, regional, national and international organisations and authorities. As part of VIA's long range ambition acknowledged research-based university, VIA wishes to strengthen its position together with international partners and other interested parties in relation to international professional research. VIA aims to influence the development within the field of professional educational research and in collaboration with universities of applied science create knowledge for the benefit of the vocations and professions which VIA's educational programmes cater to.

*Improving governance and funding*

VIA currently applies for all possible funding issued by the Danish Agency for Universities and Internationalisation as well as EU-funding from the various existing programmes under the current Erasmus programme. The application procedures are decentralised responsibilities and are applied for by the school and faculties throughout the academic year.