

AUBG Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027

In today's world, we face major social challenges on social, economic, cultural, technological, ecological and political levels. Addressing these challenges is an essential part of the mission of an international Liberal Arts institution. Interacting with others around the world enriches the ability to address these issues and the American University in Bulgaria is committed to helping our students, faculty, and staff achieve mobility abroad. With students from over 30 countries and faculty from around the globe, AUBG is already well equipped to provide an international experience. However, we seek to increase our international visibility to continue to be an attractive destination for outstanding students, faculty and staff to learn and work in future years. Increased internationalization is therefore a core goal.

Our key objectives are:

- to implement successfully the priorities of the Program in a timely manner according to the guiding principles of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-2027;
- to promote actively on a regular basis the activities supported by the Erasmus+ Program and their results;
- to increase the numbers of the incoming and outgoing mobility for students and staff;
- to find appropriate sustainable cooperation projects that are beneficial for all partners and in compliance with our institutional strategy;
- to improve the quality and quantity of the activities and services provided to the mobility participants.

AUBG's participation in the Erasmus+ program corresponds exactly to the main concepts of our internationalization and modernization strategy.

The American University in Bulgaria is planning to take part in the following Erasmus actions for the period 2021-2027:

- Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:
 - The mobility of higher education students and staff;
- Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organizations and institutions:
 - Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices
 - Partnerships for Innovation;
- Jean Monnet activities:
 - Jean Monnet Modules;
 - Jean Monnet Projects.



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The expected impact of participation in the Erasmus+ Program is to enhance the modernization, internationalization, and educational excellence of the American University in Bulgaria.

The successful and timely implementation of our main objectives will increase tremendously the academic, cultural, social, professional, and personal benefits of participating in the Erasmus+ program for each mobile participant.

This will help students to develop new skills and capabilities, stand out in the job market, and improve their intercultural and civic skills. These students will return home more motivated, proactive, and engaged civically. They will have a wider international perspective, will understand other systems of education, and will experience a wider range of course offerings. Additionally, they will have improved life skills and competencies; especially the digital ones, an international network of friends and colleagues, and greatly improved language skills.

Staff and faculty will also benefit through learning best practices in their respective fields, sharing those ideas and practices with colleagues back home, and developing new skills and key competencies. They will have first-hand knowledge of other European educational systems, and they will have the opportunity to explore new tools and technologies in their field of expertise. They will gain invaluable professional and personal contacts, will improve their language skills and digital competences, and will find out more about the latest updates in relevant areas for their work.

At AUBG, we make a lasting impact in the wider community through the civic engagement activities organized by our Erasmus office, Student Government, and the department of Student Services, which are available to our inbound and outbound students, staff and faculty members before, during and after their mobility. Such activities will help them to integrate better and interact fully with our community.

Grassroots action, meaningful local partnerships, charity initiatives and a focus on community & social responsibility give our students faculty and staff an appetite for making a difference. We believe that by inviting everyone to engage wholeheartedly in this way they are able to think of themselves as active citizens of the town, the region, and the European Union and the whole world.

The American University in Bulgaria does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic origin, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, socio-economic backgrounds or physical ability in the administration of the Erasmus+ program, study abroad and exchange programs any of its admissions policies, educational programs, employments opportunities or other Universities programs and functions. In order to promote this non-discrimination AUBG has implemented The Diversity Program, which is a participatory program that increases awareness of differences among various groups. It aims to help participants identify the accurate and inaccurate information they have learned about other groups, to gain a deeper understanding of people different from themselves, to identify the personal



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and cultural similarities and learn to appreciate and celebrate the differences that may be encountered at our university.

AUBG incoming and outgoing Erasmus students, faculty and staff together with Erasmus alumni, Erasmus office, ESN AUBG, and the department of Student Services participate in a variety environmentally friendly practices and activities aiming to increase the awareness of students, faculty and staff members of different green initiatives and reminding them of the importance of the environmental sustainability.