

In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 ERASMUS ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN YOUR EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff x

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices x

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities x

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees x

Partnerships for Innovation x

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation: x

1.2 ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS): YOUR STRATEGY

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and

modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The University Niccolò Cusano (Unicusano) is a private university officially recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education (Ministerial Decree, May 10, 2006; G.U. n. 140 suppl. n.151, June 19, 2006). It is a modern and flexible university, which offers both face to face lessons at its Campus in Rome and e-learning lessons, for degree courses in six areas: Law, Economics, Political Science, Education, Psychology, Engineering. Students can follow courses at its central Campus in Rome or courses on an online multimedia platform. In July 2015, Unicusano was accredited by ASIC UK - Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges & Universities, an independent body providing accreditation for higher education colleges. Since then Unicusano is authorised to deliver Italian degrees, fully recognised by both Governments, also in UK.

This new academic institution is the result of a successful merger of the founders' professional experience with economists, educators, lawyers, political scientists, linguists, computer scientists and researchers who are willing to invest their knowledge in the creation of a new academic institution. The aim is to combine the typical teaching and research of a traditional university and the ever-growing capability of information technology to educate and train students and carry out innovative research. The University can count on the knowledge, know-how and teaching skills of professors, with high academic honours and widely recognised scientific and educational achievements, coming from many prestigious Italian and European universities. These professors have decided to invest their experience and their knowledge in the field of distance learning and research, to create an institution giving educational chances non-inferior to those of traditional universities. Moreover, by using information science, we eliminate the obstacles that limit conventional universities and give access to higher education to people otherwise excluded from it.

Unicusano aims at developing a coherent set of actions and activities able to promote international relations and international participation and cooperation in research projects to pursue the four common objectives ET2020 and to be part of a European education area. Thus we have applied to this kind of action in order to create a European university community and to share common global feelings as active European citizens. Within this framework, international partners have been and are chosen according to their training offers, their experience, cooperation and involvement in international activities, their answers to the needs of students and staff, their priorities and their strategies. Erasmus partnerships will be based on the existent working relationships, reliability (both formal accreditation and reputation), and determination to carry out cooperation projects under the Programme. Special attention has been and is paid to the quality of teaching and research, namely to the

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

impact that research and cooperation produce on the entire training offers and on the subjects involved in them. Additional attention will be paid to the training offers and specific subjects that are taught in English and Italian.

- As to the choice of partners' main geographical areas, the main concern will be given to the above-listed issues and characteristics and to the availability in terms of cooperation in all forms of training, distant training included. Therefore, Unicusano aims at expanding and developing strategic international partnerships in the European Union, as well in Eastern Europe and other Third Countries. According to the following actions and activities:
- producing and supporting research projects with and international impact and a valuable dissemination of results;
- promoting partnership with universities, funding bodies and other private and public organizations;
- strengthening already existing international networks, inter-department and inter-faculty agreements and bilateral protocols;
- organizing international cooperation projects implemented under the Programme;
- welcoming students, teachers and researchers of all over the world;
- enabling students and staff mobility of all cycles to valorise their personal and professional development;
- supporting all the needed steps to provide international master courses and single courses, in both Italian and English, for student interested in very specific subjects;
- increasing mobility opportunities with the participation in international doctoral schools.

As for mobility, Unicusano's specific aim is to increase the exchange of professors as well as of students and staff of all cycles within the framework of the programme Mobility Actions to Third Countries, as it offers additional potential to meet the competences of students and staff.

Furthermore, Unicusano has already planned to take part actively in the development of joint courses. Joint programmes are a major objective in its international strategy, which regards them as means to strengthen existing cooperation and to expand it beyond mobility and to upper levels.

According to the University priorities, the university international strategy, up to 2027, can be described as follows:

- enhancing the number of Bachelor and Master courses taught in English, in order to improve the attractiveness of our teaching programmes for international students;
- increasing the number of participations in PhD international Schools;
- increasing the number of single courses taught in English;
- increasing the mobility of our researchers towards internationally renowned academic institutions, in order to increase the number of research projects and intensify individual collaborations and networks' cooperation within Europe and beyond.

Unicusano will support common training offers within the framework of international academic networks, to increase the opportunities of common assessments and the provision of double-degrees and joint-degrees. Priority will be given to the mobility of researchers and students

within PhD programmes and selected master courses. Additional support will be given to single researchers in order to activate academic and scientific partnerships envisaging the release of double-degrees.

From a technical point of view, Unicusano will improve the quality of its portal. A considerable number of web pages and information on its structure, international programmes, international projects, didactical and research laboratories will have versions in English to enhance their visibility and appeal.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy. Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

Unicusano's mission statement focuses on these points: advanced research programmes and facilities and commitment to excellence in higher education. International relations, inter-university co-operation and international mobility are focal points within Unicusano Development Strategy. In the last six years, Unicusano has developed a wide exchange of students and professors. The co-operation is based on a global network of partners, including all the European Institutions involved in the Erasmus+ Programme and universities in other countries (Brazil, Iran, Russia, USA). These fruitful relationships have allowed us to strengthen the participation in several European projects, such as Strategic partnerships, Knowledge Alliances for HEIs, Jean Monnet Module, European Universities, International credit mobility. The successful results attained in these activities have put solid basis for future research challenges and the creation of a unique university community. The development of international exchange programmes is assumed by Unicusano as a mean to enhance its generally high teaching level. Unicusano is increasing the number of courses taught in English in many degrees, with a double goal: to be more attractive toward incoming students and to improve the language level of its outgoing students. As for this point, Unicusano envisages that, in the future Erasmus calls, linguistic level requested should be the B2 level. In order to give its students the opportunity of improving their language skills, a particular role is played by the intensive online English language programmes offered by the Niccolò Cusano Italian University London (NCIUL - <https://www.nciul.ac.uk/>), our UK branch, situated towards the eastern edge of the village of Wye in Kent.

The particular nature of Unicusano, dedicated to distance learning but offering also blended and face-to-face courses, makes it particularly apt to take part in the new Erasmus programme, which pays much attention to blended teaching and learning activities.

Unicusano is characterized by specific research activities focused on distance teaching and learning and evaluation theories, practices and technologies.

In the last years Unicusano has hardly worked to improve its technological tools and services in order to offer a high-quality learning experience and implement blended mobility.

The holistic integration of all these aspects will be supported by the International relations office and the National and International Projects office both well connected with the academic system and goals.

Regarding the recognition of academic performance abroad, the number of Erasmus disciplinary Coordinators has been increased, in order to follow personally the students while preparing their learning agreement. Furthermore, Unicusano is progressively adding to all bilateral agreements a list of exams, which are automatically recognized. We believe that this

methodology can simplify and speed up the recognition mechanism.

In order to improve the performance of students, we will implement a sort of awards for those who achieved a large number of credits. For a better integration of incoming students in the cultural and academic context of the city, Unicusano will enforce partnerships with some organizations, such as AIESEC and GaragErasmus Foundation, which offer further possibility of common growth. All this in order to support the ongoing social and cultural activities organized by the Erasmus Office and its Social Media Managers, ESN included.

What is the **envisaged impact** of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as **mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects** (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an **indicative timeline** for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The National and International Projects Office supports teaching staff interested in applying both to the different calls / actions within the Erasmus+ Programme and other national / international programmes. This support aims at producing qualitative applications for funding specific cooperation and research projects. Teaching staff and researchers are assisted in filling applications, developing their relationships and partnerships and in carrying out all bureaucratic procedures necessary to implement cooperation agreements and to build consortia. If the application is positively assessed and funded, additional support is provided during the implementation of work-packages and work-programmes, as well as in financial procedures. Students participating in both incoming and outgoing mobility programmes are provided by the Erasmus+ Office with guidance and support before, during and after the mobility period. Students who are interested in doing an internship abroad can take advantage of the services offered by the Career Office, which supports them in finding opportunities within companies, organizations, national and international institutions, everywhere they can experience work stages and placements, before and after graduations on all levels, before and after the achievement of their different diplomas.

Students, at the end of their academic career, are also supported with personalized advice, assessment days, seminars and webinars on all the technical issues related to the preparation of applications, personal curricula, recommendation and invitation letters.

The implementation of the University participation into Erasmus activities, with particular attention to the possibility to develop and strengthen cooperation programmes and research networks, is considered a strategic priority by the Deans and the Faculty. In such a framework, the Erasmus office and committee are deeply committed to promote and foster the widest participation in all actions in Erasmus+ programme within the future years, 2021-2027.

In compliance to the Erasmus Modernisation Agenda, Unicusano has adopted the following quality policies: participants (both students and staff) are primarily selected on the basis of a strict evaluation of their commitment and motivation; teaching mobility proposals, as well as new agreements, are also selected by taking into account their importance in terms of possible follow-ups, as regards joint teaching activities and joint research projects; after the mobility,

participants are requested to share their experience through written reports or short videos, aimed at promoting Erasmus actions furtherly. In the framework of this new Erasmus call, Unicusano has defined some main objectives:

increasing the outbound student mobility (KA1), at least by 20% in the first 3 years;

organizing its first Erasmus+ international workshop and conference, focused on e-learning, smart working and cultural change;

supporting activities, agreements and partnerships to define cooperative actions (KA2), in order to assure at least one KA2 action in each degree.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PRINCIPLES

Please explain the measures taken in your institution to respect the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff. Describe how your institution ensures full and equitable access to participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.

The principles of non-discriminations orient all activities of the University. Regarding the Erasmus+ related activities, the University guarantees the same opportunities to all those interested in mobility and assures the transparency of procedure in all phases. In the student selection process, the evaluation criteria are completely accessible to all students. The selection call is available on the university website, both in the Erasmus section and with a link open in a main web page banner. The call explains the four points of the evaluation process (academic cv, foreign language certification, motivation, Erasmus period activities project), which are organized in two subgroups: the student experience and the Erasmus related motivation, to both of which deserve the same attention in the evaluation process. In this way the Committee can evaluate the student's background and personal motivation and give the same opportunity to students with weaker background. At the same time, during the colloquia, the students needing help will be assisted in their academic situation (last years). The students with fewer economic opportunities are encouraged to enjoy mobility by using all Erasmus+ instruments, among which specific funds. At the same time students can rely on the help of Erasmus Office and the academic coordinators in solving personal problems that could affect their access. To ensure equal possibility to students from all departments, the selection process provides all area the same number of scholarship. Only if students are less than scholarships, the funds can be used, with the same criteria, in other areas. At the same time, the University guarantees the possibility to participate to Erasmus programme to a number of students larger than the number of scholarship, by encouraging a non-founded mobility to students who have sufficient personal resources.

Even if the selection process depends only on the University from which the students come, Unicusano participates in the non-discrimination of the incoming students, especially giving them academic and hosting opportunities. To students with lower economic resources, the Unicusano guarantees the possibility of living in its dormitory and using its other services (ex. canteen, free gym etc.). The very low costs (in such an expensive as Rome) allow the participation of many students from disadvantaged areas or with lower incomes.

In terms of academic possibilities, the presence of modules in English, in the relative Course Catalogue, makes it easier to students to attend the classes, even if the University encourages the knowledge of Italian also with a dedicated course for Erasmus students. To guarantee the