

## Die internationale Dimension des Studierens

Die IMC Fachhochschule Krems ist Partner im ERASMUS Netzwerk und hält die European University Charta 2007. Damit verpflichtet sie sich auch, die Prinzipien und Bestimmungen der Europäischen Kommission zu respektieren und die europäischen und internationale Dimension des Studierens zu fördern.

### European policy statement (EPS)

In its mission the IMC University of Applied Sciences states that it aspires to rank among the leading European Higher Education institutions and that internationalisation, excellence of education and quality assurance are among its key features in order to ensure employability of its graduates; cultural awareness, mutual respect and respect of diversity, social responsibility and fairness are its core values; the strong commitment of the institution to mobility fosters mutual understanding as well as sustainable social and economic coherence without boundaries.

**Internationalisation** is based on a European and trans-European network of academic and business partners for students and staff; the strategic goals for the further development of this network are a balanced spread of partners in all European countries, enhancement of knowledge transfer through regular mobility of staff and students between partner institutions (academic and business), the continued use of new media to support physical and virtual mobility and enhancement of diversity particularly through a focus on language learning (large range of languages offered).

The intensified cooperation with partners through the design of double and joint degrees at Bachelor's and Master's levels will contribute to the further development of teaching and learning methods, create synergies, enlarge and deepen graduates' competences. The two-cycle structure allows student mobility at both levels. Due to its practice-oriented programmes with a clear international focus, the institution will continue to give priority to all measures enhancing incoming and outgoing mobility (e.g. languages, training in intercultural competence), transparency of acquired skills and competences (EUROPASS, DS), acceptance of students and graduates by the labour market, access to further studies and quality assurance. The IMC University of Applied Sciences will continue to cooperate within multilateral network projects for the enhancement of certified skills and competences and take an active part in the continued dissemination of the results to internal and external stakeholders.

**Responsibility for ERASMUS activities** and their dissemination is rooted at institutional level; both EUC and EPS will be made visible to students and staff through internal communication channels (intranet, student and staff conferences), to network partners and external stakeholders through the internet (homepage) and public and media relations.

The IMC University of Applied Sciences is firmly committed to support disabled students and staff through technical infrastructure and personal counselling measures; gender equality is a guiding principle of the institutional policy; by its pronounced international focus of education the IMC University of Applied Sciences actively combats xenophobia and racism.

The IMC University of Applied Sciences is ISO certified and thus procedures for mobility activities are implemented into the internal Quality Management system. For outgoing students provision of information implies access to information on partner institutions, their programmes, curricula and requirements, experience reports of senior students, all available on the intranet, and counselling during the application period through info sessions and personal coaching. ERASMUS students act as first-hand information brokers. Students are supported when setting up their study plan and learning agreement so that it best fits their level of learning and competences, programme requirements and expected outcomes and also takes into account the culture of the host country. As languages play a key role in all programmes, students are linguistically well prepared. Recognition of successfully completed studies abroad on the basis of ECTS is guaranteed.

For incoming students general information and course descriptions are provided in Students' Guides and by the staff of the International Office. Accommodation Service is given to all incoming students and special Welcome Days serve as icebreakers upon arrival. The Buddy-system with IMC students as personal tutors to incoming students is a fundamental principle for the integration of incoming students; tandem language learning helps to promote language competences and cultural understanding. In addition, a course on Austrian Culture and European Diversity is offered in line with German courses at four different levels. ECTS is applied for all incoming students. Staff mobility is organised and supported according to the same quality rules as student mobility; teaching mobility is considered enhancement of didactic and intercultural competences, an opportunity for critical reflection and exchange of knowledge and is thus strongly supported through time allowance, funds and acknowledgement.

**Placements** are integral parts of all IMC curricula, they have to comply with the specific programme focus and serve as a bridge to the future field of work. The institution provides preparatory sessions in cooperation with professional recruiters dealing with CV and application design, forms of interviews, conflict management and personality training. Each programme has a full-time coordinator to support students in finding placements in accordance to the programme and individual needs, help with logistic and legal procedures and coach and monitor students during their period of work. An institutional database provides information on countries, companies and experiences of former trainees. Quality requirements for placement partners include targeted match of student, programme and company, mentoring and monitoring system including feedback scheme within the company, access to infrastructure and industry-

specific know-how. Quality of placements is supported by an agreement with the highly experienced intermediary organisation DANUBE.

Job description, working hours, duration of placement, expected learning outcome, guidance through the company and services offered are set out in the placement contract signed by the student, the host institution, the university and the intermediary organisation. All rights and duties of parties involved are agreed upon in this contract.

Placements are learning periods, therefore critical reflection on theory learned and implementation of acquired skills and competences are guiding principles. Monitoring is done in regular intervals to assure smooth running, students are in contact with the IMC coordinator via email and telephone. Evaluation of placements by the sending institution is based on students' reports, presentations and work-related problem analyses, and on job performance evaluation by the host organisation and placement supervisor. Placements are recognised as full academic study periods in terms of ECTS by the university.