

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

INSTITUCIÓ CULTURAL DEL CIC (ICCIC) - A private foundation whose vocational training school, CIC Cicles Formatius, has been awarded the Erasmus University Charter with reference to the European ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2014-2020 and previously with the ERASMUS EXTENDED UNIVERSITY CHARTER 2013-2014 ERASMUS - STUDENT PLACEMENTS course ONLY and the Leonardo da Vinci programme. The school offers educational programmes at superior-level vocational training in the following areas:

- Visual Arts and Design
- Physical and Sports Activities
- Sociocultural and community services (recently added)

The ICCIC is committed to the modernisation and internationalisation of its educational offer, by participating in the mobility activities of the Erasmus Programme, thus enhancing the quality of its vocational training, the linguistic and transcultural competences of its students and academic staff, as a means to support mobility and to increase employability as this favours social coherence. Bearing this triple objective in mind, the school board of directors will promote it to the greatest possible extent:

- The mobility of its vocational training students, offering them the possibility to complete a vocational traineeship abroad in European countries enterprises.
- The participation of its academic staff in innovation, exchange and cooperation programmes with other higher education institutions or European enterprises aimed at improving curricular, organizational, pedagogical and methodological aspects of teaching.

ICCIC is a member of the consortium that coordinates BCN Vocational Training Foundation. This consortium coordinates the mobility of students and, in particular, internships in the 2014-2020 Erasmus for superior-level vocational technical training and also, of course, it will coordinate the international internships in company in the future with the protection of the new ECHE charter.

All of our vocational studies have a double title: the V.E.T. and the English language approved by The University of Cambridge.

Also, our school offers students the opportunity to validate subjects in different university or training degrees within the EU, specifically at the University of Bedfordshire.

By participating in the Erasmus Programme we would like our students to increase their academic level. It is also very important that our students develop digital skills, common values and inclusive education.

In order to work on our modernization program, our school priority actions for the Erasmus program are:

- Promote the mobility of students in European companies, bearing in mind that the students themselves are the protagonists of mobility.
- Support linguistic and cultural preparation as a quality commitment.
- Recognize academically the activities carried out by the students and officially those of the teachers.

Participation in the Erasmus program aims at our school:

- To improve the quality and attractiveness of vocational training in our school.

- To promote competitiveness, entrepreneurship and the skills and competences required in the European working environment.
- To promote and enrich the learning of languages and the knowledge of cultures of different countries of the European Union and to promote the integration of different cultures.

The mobility to European companies of our students improves the quality of our Vocational Training teaching. They improve the employability of our students, develop all kinds of cross-cutting competencies and prepare students to cope better with a global economy and working market. Likewise, the willingness of both students and teachers to work abroad is improved and this improvement has a positive effect on the working relationships and on the acceptance of multiculturalism.

International cooperation is an essential and positive factor in our school. All training studies have a double degree: professional and official English. For us, the possibility of taking part in the Program is a source of motivation and a quality added value for this type of teaching. The program's mobilities are well known throughout the world and they can allow our school to have an educational offer with the same benefits as other ones.

That Vocational Training School has a network of businesses in different countries that tutors, the School and alumni validate as quality organizations. The School and the students offer a continuous source of certification concerning the quality of the training offered by these businesses through a constant and formalized feedback cycle.

The foundations to which the vocational school belongs have been working to increase the internationalization of its students through foreign language education, offering discounted work and study abroad packages or study abroad for credit programmes. The School has been offering its students English-as-a-foreign language course provided by the language school staff in order to broaden their professional horizons. Participation in the Erasmus programme would further broaden professional horizons of the students by providing them with the invaluable experience of living, studying or working in another culture.

Outgoing and incoming students can receive support from the language school (CIC Escola d'Idiomes). Outgoing students are offered a 30-hour intensive language course, while incoming students have several options ranging from a pre-internship intensive course to extensive courses during their internship. The vocational training school is offered support by CIC Escola d'Idiomes, which can offer student internships intensive and extensive courses in foreign languages. Outgoing students receive a 30-hour intensive course in the target country's language before leaving their home country.

For many years we have been sending students abroad with the objective of acquiring the necessary language competence for their future professional careers. Our next scheduled mobility initiative will be through the Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility. Upon graduating, two students of ours will realize an international internship in a European country. The destination is yet to be confirmed. At present, we are informing students about this opportunity through our tutorial sessions. Academic performance is based on marks received on coursework and language competency. General communicative competence is also important as well.

The ICCIC's 10 objectives are:

1. Increase levels of success to offer graduates and professionals the professional profile that Europe currently needs.
2. Increase the quality employment opportunities of our students.

3. Improve the quality and relevance of vocational training. Professional education expands an individual's possibilities and should provide graduates with basic transferable skills and technical knowledge necessary to effectively practice in highly qualified professions.
4. Strengthen quality through mobility and international cooperation. Mobility with learning objectives helps to increase the professional, social and intercultural capacity of an individual and his employability.
5. The contribution of vocational education to the labor market and economic growth, as well as its international appeal, can be improved by establishing close and effective relationships between education, research and companies. Cross international borders to maximize potential and optimize resources.
6. Contribute to improving the quality and quantity of student mobility following the established objectives of the Erasmus program.
7. Increase the acquisition of foreign languages and thus improve the language skills of our students that enable them to work and study in the different countries of the European Union.
8. Increase the key skills of the labor market through experience in leading companies in the sector, and thus increase the following skills of students: communication with foreign languages; mathematical, scientific and technological competence, digital competence; learn to learn, social and civic competences; sense of initiative and entrepreneurship; cultural awareness and expression.
9. Promote European citizenship and cultural exchange.
10. Promote the formation of citizens convinced of the importance of being inclusive and thus contribute to an inclusive society in which it is recognized that all people have the same value, only because of the condition of being human. And at the same time, this society values diversity.

The objectives of our internationalization policy are to achieve a specific impact within our organization in the following points:

1. Reduce the dropout rate of young people to a minimum of 5%.
2. Increase the labor insertion in Europe of our students to 70% of the students who carry out an internship stay abroad, currently 40% of our students have been hired after an internship stay in Europe.
3. Increase interest in Vocational Training for young people in our country as a powerful tool for job placement. Currently in our country university studies are preferred in relation to the university and we want the current 30% of students interested in studying vocational training to increase up to 50%.
4. Increase the prestige of Vocational Training for both young people and their families who still see the most prestigious university world. If young people know about the opportunities offered by internships in vocational training in Europe, we think it will have an impact on the perception of these studies.
5. Increase the number of students with B2 training in a foreign language by 80% based on their motivation to enjoy internships in Europe.
6. Increase the number of students achieving quality employment by up to 90% thanks to the increase in key skills in the labor market.

7. Have vocational training graduates who are citizens who value diversity and are inclusive because 100% of them recognize that all people have the same value, only because of the condition of being human.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

The personnel involved in this project are mainly two people:

- The head of the Training and Business Department, Coordinator and tutor of Dual Training and internships, Coordinator of the Erasmus+ scholarships, holds a degree in Psychology, and participates directly in all meetings with the mobility area of the BCN Vocational Training Foundation. They prepare university charters, select interested students together with the school's management team, participate in meetings of European vocational training schools, and disseminate the Erasmus+ project throughout the educational community. This activity has been carried out since 2012.
- The director of the CIC Cicles Formatius school has a great interest in offering opportunities to the young students of the school to have a professional experience in another country for all the benefits that young people obtain: curriculum, learning a foreign language, experience, maturation, establishing international networks, learning about other ways of working, etc.

Since 2011, they have been encouraging the staff involved to grow in international management for the benefit of students with concrete actions: promoting English training for the director of the Training and Business Department, interacting with schools in the United Kingdom to establish collaboration links, making agreements with European schools to provide students with a double degree: vocational training and the official English degree.

In this sense, we have a COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORSHIRE. At the same time, the school's management has organized the academic curriculum of our degrees in an innovative way with the objective that our students, while studying Vocational Training, also study English intensively and finally obtain the official professional degree together with the official language degree accredited by The University of Cambridge at the European level. This project of English certifications by levels incorporated into the professional training curriculum is unique in our city. CIC Cicles Formatius is the only school that offers this double official degree.

We explain to the students the opportunity to access Erasmus+ scholarships to carry out an internship abroad, in class and we put all the information on our academic platform Clickedu. Interested students submit their application and, according to the vacancies, the management team selects them based on academic criteria, language skills, and motivational and communication skills.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.

The school complies with the objectives of non-discrimination and is committed to promoting equality between genders, cultures, and religions. It promotes the defense of human rights and democracy, fostering the fight against any form of racism and xenophobia.

Due to its social initiative and non-profit nature, the school aims to generate an educational and economic policy that facilitates dealing with students, especially when they or their families face difficulties and needs of different orders, as well as access to its educational services for the most vulnerable people from a social and economic point of view. Our school is inclusive.

Our vocational training program is approved by the Department of Education of Catalonia and by the Ministry of Education of Spain. Also, the official English qualifications are recognized by The University of Cambridge. Our

academic system is made up of Training Units that form the Professional Modules, and all of them make up the vocational training degree.

We will inform all the students of the school about the European Student Card and include all the related information on the educational platform and also on the general website, as well as promote the use of the mobile app Erasmus+ program and announce it with a special newsletter addressed to the entire educational community. We will also address all the doubts and queries of the students in person at the school.

The service dimension of the school is understood in multiple directions: service to the student, service to the parents, service to educators, service to non-teaching staff, service to the country, to Europe, and to the world. The very reason for the institution's existence is to serve, which must translate into a commitment to excellence, in a receptive and welcoming way of doing things, open to the needs of the most immediate environment and attentive to the most distant realities. With all this, the promotion of respectful attitudes and practices towards the environment is continuous, day by day, promoting the use of digital resources and avoiding printing on paper, putting recycling systems for the different discarded materials.

The school serves all of Europe and the world. In this line, the formation of civic spirit is deployed within the school, reinforces democratic values and the exercise of responsible freedom, as well as critical awareness, through which the student can discern what it really means to be human in the world. The knowledge of social realities, from the most immediate to the most geographically distant, is present in the Institution. The value of including all people and their diversity is fundamental to our educational principles.

When participating in Mobility Activities - Before mobility

Our offer of programs and courses is described extensively on our website <http://www.iccic.edu>. We also have the English school with many teachers of English, German, and French who attend to any inquiries regarding the different programs.

ICCIC is a member of the consortium that coordinates Fundació BCN Formació Professional. This consortium coordinates the mobility of students and, in particular, the Erasmus 2014-2020 scholarships for vocational training, and as is logical, in the future, it will continue to coordinate internships in European countries.

That vocational training school has a network of companies in different European countries that tutors, the school, and students validate as quality organizations. The school and the students offer a continuous source of certification on the quality of the training offered by these companies through a constant and formal feedback cycle through the QBID platform recognized and validated by the competent educational authority of the Department of Education and the Chamber of Commerce.

Our institution has a language school and our students also follow a dual degree program: professional and linguistic approved by The University of Cambridge. Therefore, they have very important support regarding the English language and receive intensive training of 6 hours per week.

When participating in Mobility Activities - During mobility

Students have face-to-face, telephone, and online tutoring to consult all doubts, in addition to receiving support regarding accommodation and organization, both for students who leave and for those who come.

The institution is responsible for the following:

- Informing students about the possibility of applying for professional international internships in European companies.

- Selecting candidates according to the criteria established by the vocational training mobility commission for international scholarships promoted by the Fundació BCN Formació Professional based on academic report criteria, language skills, and motivational and communication skills.
- Organizing an individualized study plan for each student.
- Defining the support, evaluation, and tutorial processes.
- Establishing mechanisms to validate and recognize aptitudes and competences according to common criteria.
- Facilitating communication between students and the consortium coordinator.
- Continuously evaluating the project and making any necessary modifications.

Our offer of programs and courses is described extensively on our website <http://www.iccic.edu> in Catalan, which is the official language, and since many native English teachers work at the school, this greatly facilitates communication with incoming and outgoing students with the information they need, so the support is very strong.

When participating in Mobility Activities - After mobility

All Erasmus internships are recognized at the school by training credits within the curriculum of all studies, such as the module of training in the workplace.

Additionally, internships are recorded, validated, tutored, and evaluated through the QBID platform recognized and validated by the competent educational authority of the Department of Education and the Chamber of Commerce.

Our official Educational Administration recognizes the period of professional internships in companies abroad as the module of Training in the Workplace, which is part of the vocational training curriculum. On the other hand, if the student carries out the internship in a company abroad and has already graduated from vocational training, the period will serve to increase and strengthen the competencies reflected in their curriculum vitae, their key competencies, their linguistic and professional skills, and their possibilities of labor insertion with a quality job.

All teachers who carry out practical hours as internships in companies in Europe are recognized as training hours that give them points to obtain the six-year periods recognized by the Government.

Our school promotes staff mobility initiatives with the objective of acquiring new techniques, enriching their methodologies, and researching new dynamics to work in teams.

A teacher from our school went with the ERASMUS+ KA102 to an Italian school with the aim of studying their methods, having and exchanging professional experiences for one week in November 2017. The school gives official recognition of these mobility initiatives in the professional curriculum vitae of the staff upon request to the Government.

The school, then, shared knowledge and ways of teaching vocational training in the graphic design sector and it was very positive. We are very interested in having a similar experience again to contribute to the modernization of our school and, at the same time, other schools in Europe from our knowledge and professional experience contributions.

For the Purposes of Visibility

We will announce through an informative newsletter to our educational community, on our website (www.iccic.edu), we will also inform at parent meetings in the case of underage students. All students at the school will be informed about the ERASMUS+ scholarships in person at the school.

The CIC Cicles Formatius school has a budget specifically assigned for Erasmus scholarship advertising. The ECHE Charter and Erasmus-related activities are presented on the school's website. Additionally, we send a newsletter to all families in the educational community, which will include information about the Erasmus program initiative. Finally, Erasmus initiatives can be included in the content of parent meetings, school visits, and other public relations activities carried out by the school.