



## European Policy Statement

Over the past fifteen years we have strived to develop a comprehensive institutional internationalisation policy based not only on mobility activities but also on the reinforcement of so called internationalisation at home policies and activities. This effort has translated into the fostering of a culture of articulated institutional commitment to internationalisation, prioritising international activities in the institution's mission statement and strategic plan (2012-2016): through the creation of an appropriate administrative structure and staffing engaged solely in the development and management of international activities; through an institutional policy of staff development that funded doctoral degrees in several European and international universities in order to develop a highly qualified and internationalised faculty that can exercise their pivotal role in the internationalisation of the university, being as they are, the primary drivers of teaching and research; through the development of an internationalized curriculum that ensures that all students are exposed to international perspectives and build global competences (foreign languages and European integration courses are compulsory in all degree programs); through student mobility opportunities; through academic collaboration agreements and partnerships. We understand that much needs to be done still in order to be able to sustain a truly internationalised institution. The participation in European programs (Socrates, Erasmus, and LLP) has been paramount in our growth as an internationalised European university, but the numbers of participating students and staff in outward mobility are still quite small. While, clearly, external factors play a decisive and ever growing role in the diminutive number of outbound participants in mobility activities, there is a need to develop institutional policies that can counter this tendency. The creation of a "task force" for internationalisation that could function as a steering committee to promote mobility and to help identify way to obtain full commitment of all relevant staff in support of these activities and enhance the efforts to convince students, parents and other stakeholders of the vast advantages of mobility with respect to personal development and employability. UFP also intends to promote networking within former participants in student mobility in order to create a mentoring scheme that would encourage current students to participate in mobility activities. We are aware that there need to be an increase in student mobility in all study levels but we will focus, in particular, on first cycle students as a target group for inbound mobility as they contribute to the campus wide international culture we want to see in place and are also a powerful motivator for our own students to go abroad and, at the same time, contribute for an experience of internationalisation at home for those students who still do not want or can't participate in mobility activities. We see second and third cycles students as the target group of our mobility activities (for both outbound and inbound mobility) in order to strengthen the link between teaching and learning activities and research, focusing not only on mobility for study purposes, but also on the possibility of developing research intensive internships/ work placements. As part of our strategic plan, we will continue to reinforce the idea of a bilingual university (Portuguese and English) which is possible due to the already mentioned effort of funding our faculty's advance studies abroad. We have started offering courses in English in the academic year 2006-07 and this has, undoubtedly contributed to the steady increase in numbers of incoming students and to the attractiveness of UFP for a growing number of international degree seeking students. For a small higher education institution like ours in a small country faced by massive economic and social challenges like Portugal, the move from internationalisation as an intra-disciplinary activity based on individual faculty contacts to an all pervasive factor in the analysis and accreditation of degree programs and institutions, represents a significant challenge but also an opportunity for growth and development and even for institutional survival. International academic collaboration agreements and partnerships are, of course, paramount in the pursuit of an international comprehensive policy. We have privileged partnerships with other Portuguese speaking countries, European partners as well as with the Mediterranean basin. More important than the specific geographical scope our partnerships has been the development of a network of partner universities based on shared goals and institutional missions with demonstrated ability to support and sustain the collaboration beyond student exchange and that allow mobility activities to develop into stronger cooperation encompassing both teaching and research and contribute to enhanced quality in those activities.

We intend to continue to attract these students, once again, privileging the second and third cycles since our academic offer in English language is stronger at this level and also as a way to develop our research activities through collaborative thesis supervision and the offering of double and /or joint degrees





Priority 1: Increasing attainment levels and strengthening the social dimension of higher education Although we are a private university, we strongly believe in higher education as a public good irrespectively of the juridical nature of the provide. We are certain that our participation in the programme will allow us to continue working, as we have been, with both non-traditional and adult learners, through the recognition of non-formal learning and creation of specific study opportunities and through our centre for continuing education and extension programmes and through our Inter-generational university. Also our Virtual University will have an important role in developing the provision of personalised study route and the development of joint and double degree programmes through distance and blended learning.

Priority 2: Improving the quality and relevance of higher education, including through cooperation between higher education institutions and the labour market - We envision the major impact and our biggest contribution to this specific priority through the development of the potential of ICTs in the already mentioned provision of personalised learning opportunities and through focusing on doctoral training that is industry relevant in cooperation with business stakeholders.

Priority 3: Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation. As mentioned before increasing student and staff mobility is both our biggest challenge and top action priority. Not only the programme will contribute to the development of action to increase on the number of participants but we also see it as an opportunity of enhancing the impact of mobility actions in both participants and the institution. Once again, using the potential of ICTs and virtual learning platforms opens up the possibility of promoting cross-border cooperation and inclusion through the development virtual mobility schemes.

Priority 4: Knowledge Alliances. UFP already offers a course in Entrepreneurship and Innovation in some of its degree programmes and we plan to extend this offer to all study cycles in all disciplines. Also there is a need to reinforce both local and international partnerships with both business and industry through internships and innovative doctoral training with work sector exposure. Also we feel that the possibility of business-university staff exchanges will largely contribute to the strengthening of these knowledge alliances. The development of activities within this specific priority will also aim at the reinforcement of applied research with a tangible societal impact which is, in our view, the basis of innovation and the fulfilment of the university's civic mission.

Priority 5: Improving governance and funding. The most expected impact in this specific area is the streamlining of administrative processes and the enhancement of strategic planning in internationalisation activities to maximise resources and improve accountability.

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