

Erasmus Policy Statement

In a globalised world, societal issues are increasingly difficult to solve with only a national perspective in mind. EBZ BS is a leading provider of education for the German housing and real estate industry. In response to the increasing complexity of societal challenges and the importance of European level approaches, the Internationalisation Strategy of EBZ BS enhances the European and international expertise of the HEI in the fields of study, teaching, research and administration. The focus of the international activities of EBZ BS are EU and non-EU countries. Focal areas for international cooperation have emerged with partners involved in international research projects undertaken at EBZ BS. Moreover, EBZ BS participates in several European networks for housing, e.g. FIABCI - Fédération Internationale des Administrateurs de Biens Conseils et Agent Immobiliers, RICS – Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, EFL – European Federation for Living, Europäischer Tisch [European table for housing], the European Network for Housing Research (ENHR) and European housing associations. Within these networks, EBZ BS cooperates with HEIs, companies and other organisations in the fields of urban development, housing and real estate. Contacts in Western Europe (The Netherlands, France, The United Kingdom etc.) are prominent due to the geographical location of EBZ BS. Contacts in Eastern Europe (Baltics, Ukraine) reflect the challenges of the housing industry and the resource efficiency potential in those countries. Contacts to Northern America and Australia result from recent student exchanges. The European and international partners of EBZ BS are HEIs, companies and networks with expertise in the housing and real estate sector and their surrounding issues.

Mobility is an important drive for change and internationalisation. Thus, EBZ BS aims to increase the number of incoming and outgoing students and staff. We encourage Bachelor students who have completed their first three semesters at EBZ BS and Master students who have completed their first semester to participate in exchange programmes. This includes a variety of forms: going abroad for an exchange semester or an international work placement, or engaging with incoming international guests on campus. . Therefore, we provide students with information on international opportunities as early as possible in order to enable them to plan ahead and integrate their exchange activities into their curriculum. Mobile participants gain an international perspective that promotes their personal development and enriches campus life.

Furthermore, EBZ BS builds on international experiences of its staff members to foster excellent education, innovative teaching methods and the integration of international topics into the study programmes.

The Internationalisation Strategy of EBZ BS is implemented in close cooperation with institutions of international academic cooperation (e.g. DAAD, ERASMUS+). Mobility and the recognition of mobility achievements are integrated into the regulations of the HEI. EBZ BS actively promotes student and staff mobility, international teaching and research and international cooperation projects. The academic and administrative departments of EBZ BS play an important role for the integration of foreign students and staff. The HEI supports mobility periods and the participation of academic and administrative staff in European and international projects. In order to attend international meetings, conferences, workshops and summer/ winter schools, EBZ BS staff can seek financial and organisational support of the HEI.



EBZ BS is part of UniverCity Bochum, a network of higher education institutions in Bochum. The network is a platform for EBZ BS for exchanging experiences and best practices in the programme with other ERASMUS+ HEIs. Moreover, EBZ BS participates in the network's welcoming culture for students and staff from abroad.

International cooperation projects play an important role for the internationalisation of EBZ BS. They provide opportunities for staff members and students to gain international experience and are key for building strong and reliable international partnerships. International cooperation projects moreover give incentives for the international development of teaching and research and may provide a basis for international joint research projects within and beyond ERASMUS+.

With the help of the ECHE and ERASMUS+ international cooperation projects, EBZ BS expands its networks and builds strong and reliable international partnerships. International project development, close contact during the application process and the joint participation in projects support the internationalisation and modernisation of EBZ BS and its administrative and academic staff.

EBZ BS's contacts to international networks of higher education and to European networks and associations for housing, real estate and urban development set the ground for the organisation of ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships and Knowledge Alliances. Possible topics and shared interests for Knowledge Alliances lie in the fields of housing, real estate and urban development. EBZ BS profits from gaining know-how and innovative examples for the German housing and real estate industry in a European comparative perspective.

The contacts of EBZ BS to HEIs in Eastern EU and non-EU countries set the ground for ERASMUS+ Capacity Building projects. The educational programmes for the German housing and real estate industry offered at EBZ BS can be a best practice example for the partner HEIs. EBZ BS does not only support the partner institutions, but at the same time also gains new ideas for innovations and examples for its own modernisation and internationalisation.

The decision on the participation in ERASMUS+ cooperation projects is made by the rectorate of EBZ BS. The academic and administrative departments of the EBZ BS organise and implement the projects according to their responsibilities.

EBZ BS ensures high quality teaching, learning and research and builds on incentives resulting from the international exchange of ideas, knowledge and practices for the processes of internationalisation and modernisation.

EBZ BS is a provider of education for all groups of society interested in the housing and real estate business. The EBZ diversity audit promotes this goal and sets the formal rules for inclusion, diversity and equality in the learning and working environment. With the participation of EBZ BS in ERASMUS+, these principles are applied to international projects and mobility activities as well. Periods abroad for students and staff from groups with special needs, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, with family responsibilities or with part-time jobs, etc. are actively supported. Furthermore, EBZ BS provides transparent information on educational opportunities and outcomes for non-traditional learners. The five departments combined under the EBZ umbrella assure lifelong learning and clear progression routes from vocational education into higher education and training on the job. Part of EBZ BS student body graduates the EBZ Vocational College and seeks higher education afterwards. According to this low-threshold progression route, new groups of learners profit from mobility at EBZ BS.



EBZ BS traditionally involves employers in the design and delivery of programmes and as a University of Applied Sciences, EBZ BS staff is connected to the housing and real estate industry. By participating in international cooperation projects,

e.g. Strategic Partnerships, education and research at EBZ BS benefit from the exchange of knowledge between foreign HEIs and industry partners, gaining access to partners' expertise and methods, profiting from the joint development of innovative methods and instruments. By collaborating with international industry partners, EBZ BS gains valuable insights into the needs of European and international markets and the requirements of European and international SMEs for staff training. This knowledge is used for the improvement of study programmes and their closer alignment with European requirements.

In addition, the exchange of best practices, ideas and approaches with European and international HEIs, companies and networks in the fields of housing, real estate and urban development contribute to the quality of the EBZ BS research (e.g. innovative scientific methods, results from excellent international research projects), education, learning and study methods (e.g. Distance Learning, Blended Learning). Moreover, EBZ BS builds upon the personal development of mobile students and staff. Mobile participants gain a new perspective on themes and practices and the European and international experiences promote their career and personal opportunities.

The implementation of EBZ BS Internationalisation Strategy is managed and controlled by the rectorate. The participation in ERASMUS+ provides a framework for the implementation process. International cooperation projects and mobility are milestones for the internationalisation and modernisation of EBZ BS, its further development and future success.

An objective of EBZ BS is to foster excellence in the field of the housing and real estate sector by expanding individual strengths. To this end, EBZ BS aims at continuously improving the internal governance system. Professional management for teachers and researchers is provided in order to enable them to focus on their core tasks.