



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

2021-2027

Hogeschool



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KPZ is a small University of applied sciences in the field of education. KPZ includes associate degree programs, bachelor programs and masters at three levels: pedagogic professional (NLQF 5), teacher primary education (NLQF 6) and leadership (NLQF 7).

The Dutch education system is a very decentralized system which gives a lot of freedom to the teacher and other professionals in managing 'how' to reach the goals with the pupils at school.

This gives the student and teacher the possibility to develop their own teaching style.

KPZ stimulates the students to explore as many different ways of learning and teaching by bringing them in contact with different schools, day care and teaching practices. KPZ aims to let the teaching practice take place in different schools, child centers and in different contexts. This stimulates students in their exploration of their own style in learning and teaching. In this rapidly changing and knowledge-based society, KPZ finds it important to enable students to acquire competencies by which they can find their way in this globalized world. This means an emphasis on the development of creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, technology literacy and social (collaboration, communication) skills.

KPZ considers identification with Dutch and European citizenship, an open mind towards the world and social participation as essential facets of professional identity. It is therefore impossible to imagine higher education without international and intercultural competencies. They belong to the overall training program of KPZ and the professional identity of pedagogical professionals, primary school teachers and leaders. The subsequent main task for internationalization stemming from this is: "to make a contribution to the quality of education, the quality of the professional and the quality of the student. Internationalization as an incentive for the quality of cooperation, exchange, mobility and good partnership."

The statement of KPZ when it comes to partners, geographical area, objectives and target groups is written in this document.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Central to all key-words in education is 'good partnership' which entails outstanding education at KPZ's programs. In order to formulate the ambitions of KPZ 'partners' are of paramount importance with regards to achieving these ambitions. In order to reach the objectives for internationalization good partners are essential and are fundamental for working within internationalization. The main target of the International Office is to find and maintain suitable partners for the benefit of student exchange and teacher & staff mobility. In the field of teacher training at primary level KPZ cooperates with accredited and qualified institutions in Bern (Switzerland), Derby (Great Britain), Oulu (Finland) and many more partners. In the policy plan of the KPZ ambitions for action research are formulated as follows: to initiate national and international connections and cooperation with research centers. This implies seeking alliances with suitable partners in the field of research as well as universities of applied science. Suitable partners are primary schools in EU & non-EU for teaching practice of student teachers. Mobility should focus on arts, civics, concepts or science in the final phase of the study as a 'teachers' choice. Once chosen it will guide participants to find the right partner within the EU or non-EU supported by the International Office for exchange or deepening the focus.

TARGET GROUPS

In general the main objective for mobility is this: By bringing students, teachers and staff in contact with the world behind our borders, we contribute to the development of a unique personality and professional identity, broadening their field of vision and the exchange of knowledge and experience. In order to work and continuously develop in a globalizing world, international exchange is of great importance. To achieve a fruitful cooperation KPZ intends to work in a triangular relationship: KPZ, a EU or non-EU university and primary schools in the same area involved with teacher training or leadership. A good example is the Teacher in Europe conference which will be held annually in April or May.

STUDENTS

The present target is that 30% of our students will go abroad for study or internship. The focus for student mobility in future will be more on studying within the EU guided by the choice in the final phase of the study as mentioned before. On the other hand we target on 10% of our Dutch students involving in the international program at KPZ with students from abroad. KPZ invests in an attractive, future-oriented, international program consisting of 30 ECTS in the 3rd year of the bachelor program. The objective is twofold, giving attractive and distinctive education for incoming students from our EU partners and responding to the possibility of Internationalization at home. When it comes to this, we strive for equality of opportunity by making internationalization accessible for all our students.

The present target for working on international competences during the study is for all the KPZ students, so 100%. This will be reached by international weeks abroad, internationalization at home or the two before mentioned options. All these activities contributes to the development of the students English language skills which are important to have in Dutch education.

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TEACHERS

Teaching / lecturing abroad to improve one's own quality and perform as an internationally accepted teacher and professional in his field of study are at the heart of teacher exchange next to curriculum comparison and exploring educational developments abroad in a special field of subject. KPZ adds an international component to the masters by exchanging master students (teachers and other professionals in the fields of education and youth care) at master level for knowledge sharing and to connect and exchange on different educational themes.

STAFF

This activity is in particular aimed at the exchange of expertise, job shadowing, cooperation in the development of programs and curricula, accreditation/audits.

KPZ is a relatively small university of applied sciences compared to other universities, although it hosts a highly qualified teacher training institute and other pedagogical college education according to the ranking of HEI's and accreditation. Although our capacity for international cooperation projects is limited by the number of staff and teachers KPZ stimulates international exchange of its employees. Therefore, in future KPZ intends to organize international projects within the employees' workload. On a small scale KPZ started to organize mini-conferences like Teacher in Europe sponsored by CILO (Center for Internationalization of Teacher Training Programs). KPZ teachers have developed special courses. Crossing borders step by step is the main idea with regards to the capacity and ambition in quality of KPZ concerning international projects in future. The IO has to explore challenges and possibilities for funding of the international programs supported by the CEO and management team of KPZ.

The target for teacher and staff mobility is at least 12 exchanges per year.

Asking teachers and staff about their wishes to improve their international skills or cooperation with international partners regarding internationalization is a theme during the yearly performance appraisal.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

KPZ is a member of the federation of Radiant universities that organizes international partnerships to enforce mobility worldwide, areas as Dutch Caribbean Islands, Suriname and Nepal are involved. For preparation, guiding and feedback concerning mobility in those areas the partnerships worked out successfully. As Radiant universities we collaborate in these partnerships aimed at the exchange of students and staff.

On the map of Europe KPZ found plenty of good partners, for example in Worcester (Great Britain), Innsbruck (Austria) and Volda (Norway). Further development of this cooperation and finding new partners for our evolving program has priority. Finding suitable partners is also a matter of finding a proper match in different disciplines.

KPZ STRATEGY REGARDING TO INTERNATIONALIZATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, our new strategic plan will be implemented. One of our main goals is the implementation of some of the international sustainable development goals (SDG's). We will adopt at least the following goals: 4 (quality education), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities) and 17 (partnerships for the goals). We want to emphasize number 10 (reduced inequalities). Therefore we strive to give every student the possibility to obtain international experience in one way or another. Internationalization at home is one of those ways. KPZ has a long tradition and history which goes back to 1896 where de catholic nuns started a school for the 'underprivileged'. Nowadays we still focus on our emancipatory driving force and therefore inclusion is one of our high standards. Internationalization and internationalization at home contributes to inclusion.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTION POINTS, KPZ INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

- 1 Stimulate Internationalization at home
 - Using Internationalization at home to make 'developing international competences' accessible for all our students
 - Invest in promotional activities for Teacher in Europe
 - Invest in promotional activities for the International program of KPZ
- 2 Invest in a renewed international 30ECTS program for incoming, Erasmus Exchange students
- 3 Stimulate students to do an international study or internship
 - Target: 30% of our students will go abroad for study or internship
 - Target: 10% of our students involve in the international program at KPZ with students from abroad
 - Target: 100% of our students develop international competences by international weeks abroad or internationalization at home
- 4 Explore possibilities and find partners to exchange on master level
- 5 Being visible and accessible for students, teachers and staff
 - Communication on internal and external website
 - Improve ownership of employees when it comes to international activities
- 6 Stimulate teachers and staff to go abroad
 - Target: at least 12 mobility programs per year
 - Invest in innovative themes and modules
 - Invest in new 'good partnerships' and maintain current partnerships
 - Invest in organized exchanges programs by the International Office
- 7 Make international competences visual and accessible during the whole program
 - International competences divided in three main themes: personal development, intercultural competences and international orientation
- 8 Cooperation with Dutch Radiant partners
 - Knowledge sharing
 - Invest in shared projects
 - Shared communication canals
 - Invest in non-EU projects
- 9 Implement and expand the international curriculum at associate degree and master level
- 10 Implement the Erasmus+ mobile App and adapt the system of KPZ to its services

**HOGESCHOOL
KPZ**

Ten Oeverstraat 68
8012 EW Zwolle
038 4217425