

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Internationalization is the main policy of İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University in order to take the university one step further to an intellectual, educational, cultural level. Even though it is a brand new university which was established in 2010, it aims to enhance the number of mobilities and forge closer ties with other higher education institutions. As gaining new skills and lifelong learning strategies have gained momentum to increase competitiveness, İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University continuously looks for opportunities to serve for this aim.

İKÇÜ has been participating in Lifelong-Learning Programs since 2013. Within this period, it aims to increase the number of Bilateral Agreements which give both students and staff an opportunity to take part in. Due to this reason, the efforts to increase this number have been going on day by day. While choosing partners, educational system has been taken into consideration at most because it is believed that a fruitful collaboration can yield positive results by this way. Additionally, İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University is a member of Study in Izmir platform which unites 9 universities in Izmir. By building close relation and creating the information exchange environment, the crucial steps to make İzmir more attractive for international students and academicians are taken.

Within the context of Erasmus+, strong relations have been built and it has been still going on. Staff Mobility and Student Mobility are the milestones to foster these international relations. Even though İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University is one of the new universities, the number of participants to these mobility types has been quite a lot. In order to give all candidates a chance to take part in mobility programmes, it is also planned to increase the quota for applicants. In case that the quota is not enough for the demand, other exchange programmes have been taken into consideration. In this context, Mevlana Exchange Programme and Turkish Scholarship Programme also make a significant contribution towards the policy of internationalization. Thanks to these exchange programmes, around 200 students including Chad, Rwanda, Syria, South Africa, the USA, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan etc. have gained a right to education in our university.

As İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University places great emphasis on internationalization, the process from the beginning to end has also been followed carefully. Giving a support to all

participants such as organizing orientation programmes, meetings and events has a vital role to provide unity in diversity. As the mission of İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University is to promote interinstitutional co-operation, mobility schemes and integrated programmes of study, training and research, all participants selected to take part in exchange programmes have been chosen in equal conditions. The University selects students without regard to sex, race, ethnic origin, religion or social background. Additionally, the International Office has always monitored both staff and student's progress during the placement and all supports have been given whenever they need.