



University of
Applied Sciences

Erasmus Policy Statement

IMC Krems, August 2024



Mission statement

Vision

International. Innovative. IMC Krems.

Mission

We are an Austrian university of applied sciences with an international orientation. In our core tasks, education and research, we develop and implement innovative and sustainable solutions that create regional, national and global benefits.

Values

Learn. Create. Inspire.

International

The international orientation of IMC Krems is reflected in all areas of the university of applied sciences and is particularly evident in our efforts to achieve international accreditation, the integration of our researchers into the international scientific community, and worldwide cooperation in research and education with universities, research institutions and partner companies.

IMC Krems offers framework conditions and curricula that inspire our students to gain international experience so that they can start or further develop their careers with an international mindset and network. International students and faculty contribute to the international atmosphere at our campuses.

IMC Krems actively embraces social responsibility as a global issue. Specifically, the commitment to continuously improving the environmental performance and upholding the principles of responsible higher education can be stressed. Actions are based on the Sustainable Development Goals and IMC Krems acts as a role model for our stakeholders.



Innovative

IMC Krems is positively perceived as a pioneer by its stakeholders in the established core areas of Business, Health, and Science & Technology. Our corporate culture and structural framework promote innovation in teaching, research and university services.

Economic and societal trends are the basis for discourse with our stakeholders to define new strategic thrusts in education and research. Sustainability and quality are our priorities when implementing innovations. Scientific findings are published in the appropriate media to generate the highest possible impact.

IMC Krems

IMC Krems is a private education and research company. Entrepreneurial thinking feeds into all our decisions. Efficient procedures are chosen to strengthen the international and innovative orientation of IMC Krems.

High-quality and sustainable further development results from respectful cooperation between students, teachers and researchers, employees and our partners. Cooperation is characterised by professional qualifications, a high sense of responsibility and above-average commitment. Academic understanding means freedom of research and teaching in compliance with all ethical and scientific standards. IMC Krems is committed to pluralistic discussion and free from political dogma.

As a family-friendly and inclusive university, IMC Krems takes into consideration the individual needs of our staff, students and teachers. Diversity is reflected in all dimensions. Therefore, activities are set regardless of social or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religious confession, world view, age or other personal characteristics. IMC Krems promotes a culture of openness, trust and mutual respect. This framework allows to learn, create and inspire.

Internationalisation strategy & core actions

Derived from IMC Krems' strategic concept and guidelines, further attention shall be drawn to the objectives, tools and concrete actions of internationalisation. IMC Krems' continuous participation in the Erasmus+ programme fosters inclusive mobilities and forms an essential pillar for the consistent pursuit of international education projects. Without such funding persistent and large-scale mobility activities could hardly be implemented successfully.

Structural Organisational Support

Learning mobility of individuals (Key Action 1) and innovative international cooperation projects (Key Action 2) are processed by the departments of International Relations (IR) and Research & Innovation Services.

The International Welcome Centre (a sub-unit of IR) functions as an operational "one-stop-shop" for all international students, teachers, researchers and staff providing valuable information, advice and personal support before, during and after the mobility (initial application, visa, housing, social integration in the campus and host communities, German language courses, etc.) at IMC Krems.

Various workshops (such as Intercultural Competence, Navigating identity abroad, Stay safe during your mobility abroad) are also offered for international and incoming students as well as IMC Krems outgoing students to prepare them for their diverse and challenging experiences in Austria or abroad.

Partner network

Teachers and researchers of IMC Krems are valued and esteemed members of the international academic & scientific communities. Collaborations in research and education take place with universities, research institutions, and partner companies on all continents. The goal is to further expand the international partner network in Europe and beyond, for all institutes and degree programs of IMC Krems. Mobility and international collaborations are to be promoted in all degree programs. To pursue these goals, participation in the European University Initiative is anchored as a future topic in the strategy of IMC Krems.

Mobility

IMC Krems aims to enhance and institutionalise strategic higher education mobility activities to establish and sustain long-term-, competence- and excellence-oriented mobilities with partner universities.

Student and (teaching) staff mobilities through both outgoing and incoming flows promote knowledge transfer and new competences in learning approaches as well as teaching and training methods. At the same time, global awareness and respect for diversity, the deepening of language skills and job-oriented experiences are conveyed and achieved. Whilst participating in Erasmus+ activities, students and (teaching) staff enhance self-esteem, gain intercultural sensitivity and obtain self-reflection abilities that have a significant and positive impact on their personal development.

In the near and medium-term a growing focus will also be laid on international credit mobility (through Erasmus+ KA171 projects, as well as the international component of KA131 projects) to strengthen international higher education partnerships, foster incoming mobilities and to expand mobility opportunities for students and staff not only within Europe but worldwide.

Dual Degrees and Transnational Programmes

The number of dual degree programmes is to be expanded, and dual degree collaborations are to be established in all institutes of IMC Krems. The goal is to establish long-term successful dual degree programmes and subsequently joint programmes with long-standing experienced partner universities, providing students with access to these programs based on their academic performance.

Furthermore, Transnational Programmes which significantly contribute to expand IMC Krems study programmes, will be further developed to encourage mobilities for both teaching staff and students. Participating in the international mobility programme of Erasmus+ KA171 will be an essential element to increase the quality and quantity of mobilities in IMC's transnational and dual degree programmes.

Alternative mobility forms: Short, Blended & Virtual Mobility

Where long term physical mobility is not possible for various reasons, IMC Krems aims to create alternative internationalisation opportunities, such as virtual



exchanges (COILs) or in the form of Blended Intensive Programmes in cooperation with partner universities. Short-term mobilities for incoming and outgoing students will be increasingly developed and offered in the future. The aim of these measures is to offer international activities and alternative mobility opportunities for underrepresented student groups and well as students from programmes with less emphasis on internationalisation, thus contributing to the strategic goal of international orientation for the entire university. The goal is also to reach more researchers and staff of IMC Krems with international activities in the future, thereby creating opportunities to further develop international experiences and competencies.

Erasmus+ key priorities

IMC Krems fully endorses and supports the key priorities of the Erasmus+ programme 2021-27 and has implemented strategies, processes and measures to enhance awareness and ensure its realisation.

Diversity and Inclusion

At IMC Krems diversity is appreciated as a remarkably enriching resource. Everyone is addressed equally and encouraged to study, teach, research and work without fear of discrimination. Based on these set principles, the “IMC Gender and Diversity Advisory Board” was founded.

To meet special needs and to support disadvantaged colleagues and students with fewer opportunities, a union for students with special needs was established providing information, advice and tailor-made support.

To allow everyone to participate in international activities, IMC Krems intensifies alternative types of mobility as mentioned above. This ensures access to mobility projects for financially disadvantaged or part-time students, students enrolled in study programmes with a less globalised focus, as well as students and staff with family responsibilities.

Digital Transformation

Digital optimisation is also an essential objective in academic mobility procedures. This includes supportive tools for incoming students to plan their schedules, course enrolment, and to digitally establish learning agreements and issue transcripts of records. Erasmus Without Paper is an initiative already supported by IMC Krems to reduce bureaucracy for students and actively contribute to the development of a digital European higher education sector.

Green Erasmus

IMC Krems is fully aware of its commitment to safeguard societal and environmental responsibilities. Respecting nature as well as utilising and allocating resources in a sustainable way are values and guiding principles that are firmly embedded in the strategy. All stakeholders shall convey these values and



examples of “good practices” to IMC Krems students. Sustainable thinking is being integrated as a generic pedagogical principle in all study programmes and has explicitly materialized in the IMC Krems Master Programme “Environmental and Sustainable Management”.

The strategic goal of IMC Krems includes the efficient use of resources and the enhancement of environmentally friendly mobilities. Incentives for all travellers who opt for sustainable means of transportation are being developed. To reduce the IMC Krems carbon footprint and subsequently preserve essential resources, short project meetings and small-scale project events are preferably conducted online.

Global engagement and participation

Mobility often provides students with diverse, authentic learning experiences; as responsible, proactive "ambassadors" of their alma mater and home countries, they also become self-critical "observers" of the realities of their destinations and host institutions. Sensitive perception and reflection on social, political, economic, and cultural differences will, in the majority of mobility experiences, lead to a differentiated appreciation of the "self" and the "other."

With the development of the IMC “Global Engagement for Global Citizen Programme” (including a certificate), IMC will continue to foster and acknowledge student activities reflecting European values and key priorities of the Erasmus+ programme

Mag. Ulrike Prommer
Head of University Management