

Erasmus Policy Statement (2021 – 2027)

As one of the leading business schools in Germany, the International School of Management (ISM) has been preparing students for management tasks in national and international companies since 1990. ISM not only carries "internationality" in its name, but has also lived it for more than 30 years.

The international orientation is firmly integrated into the structures and forms an important basis for teaching and research. With its locations in Dortmund, Frankfurt, Munich, Hamburg, Cologne, Stuttgart and Berlin, ISM is locally rooted in different regions of Germany and globally networked with approximately 190 partner universities. ISM offers Bachelor's and Master's programs with different study orientations on a full-time and part-time basis. The international mobility of the students is 100%. This means that all full-time students complete at least one or, in the full-time Bachelor's program, optionally two semesters abroad (= European or Global Track) as part of their studies at ISM. In the Bachelor's program, the first semester abroad (except for our B.Sc. International Management, English Trail) must be completed at a European partner university. On the one hand, this is to familiarize our future top executives with the relevance of the European business market and, on the other hand, to strengthen the awareness of the European identity, the cultural heritage of Europe and its diversity. In the area of continuing education, ISM offers short-term modules abroad and in the consecutive Master's programs, double degree programs are offered with a total of twelve partners, whereby a complete online double degree for our part-time Master's students was initiated only this year.

The continuous expansion as well as the modernization of ISM's study programs are to be carried out in line with the requirements of the European education market, e.g. in order to attract more students for so-called STEAM subjects. The use of new technologies in teaching units should continue to consolidate and expand ICT skills. As part of our international and practice-oriented study profile, our future top executives should be equipped with knowledge and skills that prepare them for full participation in society. Globalization and technological change are constantly changing the requirements of the labor market and society. Here, digital skills, numeracy, independence, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, among others, are becoming increasingly important. This is exactly what we want to prepare our future, highly qualified top executives for, and since sound management education has been part of our core business for 30 years, ISM as a university is the ideal trainer of these above-mentioned qualifications.

In 2020, the digitalization of teaching and services has progressed very far, so that ISM can offer teaching completely online; this will be further expanded in the future. By offering ISM full scholarships, scholarships for refugees and other scholarship opportunities, ISM is also opening up higher education to disadvantaged and socially weaker groups. Of course, we also support students with special needs. Early contact with students is intended to help ensure that students aspire to higher education and are prepared for it in the best possible way. Our personal study atmosphere ensures individual learning & as well as individual support with attention to special needs.

For the mandatory student mobility abroad, it is important for ISM to have a high-quality and active network through which our students expand and deepen their professional qualifications and acquire the necessary intercultural competence. We engage in ongoing quality control and assurance of our international mobility, with students involved in the quality management of our semesters abroad.

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Important and complex partnerships of ISM shall be further strengthened and used for the internationalization of teaching as well as for research.

The international accreditation of ISM will continue to be pursued in order to raise its quality standards and, among other things, to withstand international university competition. Finally, the quality of ISM as a tertiary educational institution is always reflected in the rankings (e.g. trendance, CHE Ranking, multirank).

The international profile of our locations is characterized not least by the active use of guest lecturers, who teach primarily in our master's programs. Almost all of our Master's programs are taught entirely in English and, in conjunction with the foreign lecturers, already offer a substantial international experience during the ISM semesters. In the selection of ISM professors and lecturers, attention is always paid to an international orientation of both practical and teaching activities. ISM lecturers are to be increasingly involved in international projects (EU, DAAD), which are primarily aimed at the further development of international study content and methods.

By participating in the new Erasmus program generation (2021-2027), ISM would like to continue to contribute to the success of the "Europe" project. With all our goals, we want to invest in our youth, in the future of Europe. Relevant for this is an effective education system with innovative, forward-looking universities like ISM. Ultimately, we want to help ensure that young people achieve a tertiary education qualification, which is expected to be essential for 50% of all jobs by 2025.

As a result of the fact that a semester abroad is firmly integrated into the curriculum (= mobility window) within all of our full-time degree programs, at least one semester abroad is mandatory for all full-time students. In our European Track, the Erasmus+ program is firmly institutionalized, as the majority of partnerships consist of Erasmus+ cooperations, which we would like to deepen in the new program. The Erasmus+ international dimension plays a major role in the Global Track as well as in the Master, where students have the opportunity to spend a semester abroad at one of our overseas partner universities. The Erasmus+ program also plays a strong role in our double degrees; these collaborations are to be further deepened and expanded.

Finally, we give university staff the possibility of staff mobility through the Erasmus+ program, e.g. by participating in an Erasmus+ Staff Week, further education, international conferences / events as well as networking activities.