



### Erasmus Policy Statement

Lodz University of Technology (TUL) is an internationally oriented university which actively responds to the challenges of the European Education Area, widely promotes its international research, education and social projects, and addresses global needs and calls for action. In pursuit of its mission TUL aims to foster freedom, ethics, professionalism, creativity, and partnership in research, learning, and engagement with the international environment.

Lodz University of Technology provides teaching of the highest standard with regard to global trends and latest achievements in science. Continuously designed and improved curricula for first-cycle and second-cycle programmes and for doctoral programmes are based on close cooperation with external stakeholders (the socio-economic environment), latest international models of teaching and learning, and research conducted by the University's staff. Education will rest entirely on 'active learning' as opposed to passive teaching and will proceed with the application of modern methods, whereas further development of the e-learning platform will lead to continuous enhancement of degree programmes and enrichment of the range of postgraduate programmes and trainings provided by the University. Lodz University of Technology will continue to put great emphasis on foreign language instruction and international exchange of students and doctoral students.

Participation of TUL in the Erasmus Programme is the key instrument for successful realization of its Strategy with respect to internationalization.

In particular the Erasmus Programme will support the following objectives of the TUL Strategy 2020-2025.

#### **Objective 1. Intensification of internationalization of the academic community**

Lodz University of Technology aims to be a leading university by taking advantage of international experience that can be transferred to domestic practice by all members of the academic community. This aim will be achieved by greater participation of staff, students and doctoral students of Lodz University of Technology in international networks, projects and associations related to science, education, and management. With regard to science and research, a special challenge is to strengthen the impact of the University's research on the advancement of world science, especially in priority research areas, and also to increase the number of successful applications for prestigious international research grants. In the domain of education, it will be important to develop degree programmes taught in foreign languages, to test and implement innovative models of education based on best practice of the leading universities in the world, and also to introduce new original ones developed and verified at Lodz University of Technology. As regards management and governance, best practice benchmarking will be crucial for adapting and implementing best practices of international universities to facilitate efficiency growth of the University's operations, all of which will foster the image of Lodz University of Technology as an attractive place for international students, doctoral students, and scientists to study and conduct research.

#### **Objective 2 To support staff mobility**

An important course of action in the strategy of Lodz University of Technology is the effort to increase staff mobility, especially international mobility. Promotion of staff training mobility to boost participation in research, teaching, organizational training opportunities, and study visits, particularly to international research institutions, will conduce to implementation of good practice in research, teaching, and administration of the University. Hence, Lodz University of Technology intends to develop and introduce mechanisms to stimulate and support the mobility of its academic and administrative staff with a view to obtaining complementary distribution of skills of both groups that will support University activities within strategy goals.

#### **Objective 3 Advancement of international student collaboration**

National and international cooperation of students is a chance to develop and successfully carry out creative endeavours. Student community collaboration promises a number of positive results.

Hence, the University will champion such an activity by providing subject-matter guidance, organizational support, and funding. Extensive international cooperation will increase opportunities for gaining new knowledge and skills, learning about different cultures, and therefore reinforcing the perception of Lodz University of Technology as an institution committed to promoting student engagement and supporting student activity.

#### **Objective 4 Modern methods, innovative programmes, flexible learning paths based on the best international practices**

At Lodz University of Technology traditional teaching methods will be increasingly supplemented with modern methods based on the principle of creative learning, autonomous pursuit of knowledge, tutoring, and mentoring. Continuous improvement and growing application of creative methods and approaches such as design thinking (DT), problem based learning (PBL), research based learning (RBL), case teaching (CT), flipped education (FE) and others coupled with systematic monitoring of the needs of the socio-economic environment will lay the foundations for designing innovative curricula for all study cycles, including interdisciplinary and inter-university programmes, and in particular double-degree and joint-degree programmes that make Lodz University of Technology stand out in the higher education market. An important direction for growth in this area is continuous refinement of curricula with foreign language instruction in order to meet educational requirements of Polish and international students as well as obtaining national and international programme accreditations for degree programmes provided by the University.

#### **Objective 5. Reinforcing cooperation with higher education and other educational institutions**

The growth of the University will also be ensured through strong cooperation with higher education institutions within the country and abroad, which involves building academic community cooperation networks based on university agreements, partnership agreements, and federations. Equally meaningful is collaboration with other educational institutions, especially with secondary schools, where prospective students of Lodz University of Technology receive education. In this respect, educational and promotional activities targeted at secondary school students will be intensified. An important role in this activity will be played by teaching centres of the University, student self-government, student organizations and science clubs, whose members are very familiar with interests and sensory preferences of young people. At the same time, boards for degree programmes will systematically collect information on current demands of the job market at different geographical locations: city, region, country, and the world, and take it into account during the design and revision of curricula.

#### **Objective 6. Furthering international renown of Lodz University of Technology**

Aiming to earn greater international recognition, Lodz University of Technology will act to facilitate its participation in prominent international rankings, institutional and programme accreditations. Furthermore, it will implement systematic and continuous monitoring of accreditation and ranking criteria as an important tool supporting its strategic decision-making.

#### **Objective 7. Holistic approach to internationalisation of the University**

Lodz University of Technology views internationalization as an overarching goal integrating the University's strategy, structure, resources, and all processes. It will become a mandatory component of the quotidian activity of each staff member and each student. The University will act to intensify internationalization by creating new contexts and opportunities and also by continuously improving current administrative procedures related to international cooperation. Because of this, Lodz University of Technology will scale up its activities to progress from international to global level, which will reinforce its status of an innovative and internationally recognized university.

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TUL has always paid a lot of attention to internationalization and its recognition at an international level, and as an act of confirmation it established in 2017 a new university unit -the International Cooperation Centre (ICC) of Lodz University of Technology. Its main task is dynamic implementation of the internationalization strategy of the University and a strong emphasis on the identity of TUL as an innovative academic centre on the EHEA.

The Centre was created as a result of a merger of several dispersed units supporting the international cooperation of the University, both in student matters and exchange of employees or servicing international agreements. The Centre's responsibilities also include international rankings, being so far the responsibility of various divisions of the rector's administration, yet to a limited extent, and international accreditation issues, as a completely new task. The International Cooperation Centre comprises three smaller centres providing comprehensive services to students and academic administration in the field of international cooperation. These are: the International Faculty of Engineering (IFE), the International Cooperation Service Centre (COWM) and the Cooperation Centre Poland-East (CWPW). Appendix 19d presents the organisational chart of the International Cooperation Centre.

The globally recognised International Faculty of Engineering (IFE) provides education in English and French. The intention of the University's authorities was to create a place which, due to its specificity, would become a centre of internationalisation. Its lecturers are employees of TUL who have completed their doctorates abroad, mainly at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland. IFE was also a pilot unit introducing the ECTS system at the University as early as 1997 and an experimental field for the implementation of modern methods of education. Today, this unit runs 11 first-cycle programmes and 6 second-cycle programmes with approximately 1,300 students, nearly 30% of whom are foreign students, either pursuing the entire educational cycle in Poland or coming as exchange students under the Erasmus+ programme. As a consequence of extensive cooperation with European universities, all IFE students have the opportunity to study and do work placements abroad for several months, and all IFE students of first cycle studies are required to complete at least one semester at a foreign university (i.e. mobility semester).

In cooperation with foreign centres, TUL is engaged in activities in various areas: from exchange of employees and students, through participation in scientific conferences and organisation of such conferences in TUL, participation in research and educational programmes and projects.

The strategic partners of Lodz University of Technology include universities, educational and scientific institutions or organisations (e.g. research institutes) and companies. TUL cooperates with these institutions, which is important for scientific and didactic reasons, and in the case of some partners, long-term relations are also the proof of their strategic importance.