

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

UTAD's main objective is to provide high level qualification, to produce and disseminate knowledge and to offer cultural, artistic, technological and scientific education and training for its students, all within an international reference framework.

UTAD values the research activities by both its teaching and non-teaching staff, stimulates the intellectual and professional education of its students and ensures the conditions for all duly qualified citizens to have access to higher education and lifelong learning, promoting equal access and equal opportunities. UTAD encourages effective mobility in students and graduates, at both national and international levels, namely within the European Union and in Portuguese-speaking countries, and we have witnessed the consolidation and strengthening of partnerships with various EU and Non-EU institutions. Due to the proximity of the language and culture, the Lusophone space entails the development of cooperation policies, especially with Brazil, the countries of the Iberian-American Network and the African Portuguese Speaking countries.

On a European level, there has been a significant increase of partnerships and bilateral agreements with HEI's that share the same objectives and teaching/training/research subject areas. As a result, institutional relations with Central and Eastern Europe countries have been intensified. Also, geographic proximity has led to a reinforcement of cross-border cooperation in what concerns knowledge networks, mobility and research projects.

In a university that is open to internationalisation and entrepreneurship with fundamental and applied research, sustained development is planned within a distinctive educational offer among 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle courses, and can't be disconnected from the context of Higher Education planning, through rationalisation of the educational offer and the "Europe 2020" strategy for intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth, seeking to increase the number of qualified citizens and fighting poverty.

Research is one of our priority vectors, underpinning the educational offer, in particular for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycles, as well as the teaching quality. Cooperation in joint, cross-border programmes with the traditional stakeholders, universities and companies will be strengthened without duplication, using the installed capacity in R&D and sharing infrastructures and equipment for scale and excellence. Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship are prerequisites in both the educational offer and in research projects.

There has to be strong international involvement reinforcing the pursuit of our goals in terms of research, teaching and innovation, which should contribute towards attracting postgraduate students and recruiting renowned senior researchers and talents in order to produce knowledge and develop intercultural skills. Strategies of national and international cooperation in education granting degrees and multiple awards are encouraged by European programmes for student and staff mobility and also within other international mobility projects and knowledge networks, in conjunction with the courses offered and the research undertaken. UTAD's strategic measures include the promotion of global training; organisation streamlining and the rationalisation of the educational offer, which should be based on courses in our areas of proven excellence and international demand that can turn UTAD into a benchmark and consolidate the existing scientific potential in the priority areas, such as agrarian sciences, forestry, wine growing and production, life and food quality, production technologies and "green" production, as well as integrated rural development, safeguarding and enhancing natural resources and biodiversity in the promotion and management of natural spaces and endogenous resources. Other strategic measures are the investment

in R&D and the creation of multidisciplinary cooperation; fostering competition through international projects; the unambiguous increase of scientific productivity and the need for cooperation with the economic and business fabric.

In what concerns mobility, in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of studies, UTAD's fundamental objective is to promote the increase of mobility actions in both number and quality, and expanding mobility to other knowledge areas and other HEI's. In what concerns traineeships, the university's intent is to promote relations with commercial/industrial companies through participation in national and international consortia. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycles, UTAD fosters multi-institution educational offers under a policy of co-tutoring (joint masters, doctorates, MBA's and other projects – mainly in the scope of the Luso-Brazilian Conventions and PLI-International Graduation Programme), affiliation or consortiums with other universities (Erasmus-Mundus), business associations, Business Innovation Centres, competitiveness clusters and Science and Technology Parks.