

Erasmus Policy Statement 2024-2027

DOBA Business School, established and accredited in 2003 as an independent higher education institution, is part of the DOBA Business Group. As a non-profit and 100% online higher education provider, we specialize in online learning and support systems tailored to the needs of part-time students, who are primarily employed professionals. Over the past 25 years, we have developed our proprietary online study model supported by modern technologies and licensed software, ensuring a high-quality and fully supported learning experience for students from diverse backgrounds. Our student body also includes a significant number of individuals from the Western Balkans, particularly Serbia and Croatia, further enriching our international community.

Strategic Objectives

1. Strengthening the international reputation of DOBA Business School

DOBA Business School has built a robust reputation as an innovative and reliable institution, particularly through its active participation in the Erasmus+ program. By leveraging this platform, we:

- enhance international scientific and research collaboration, actively involving students in research initiatives;
- strengthen partnerships with esteemed higher education institutions and networks;
- promote staff, teacher, and student mobility;
- position ourselves as leaders in implementing innovative educational approaches.

2. Advancing international cooperation and collaboration

We recognize that international partnerships are essential for achieving excellence in research and education. To this end, we:

- maintain and expand collaborations with international institutions, focusing on strategic partnerships and Erasmus+ projects (e.g., Blended Intensive Programs (BIP), COIL initiatives, and KA2 strategic partnerships);
- foster joint development and implementation of programs, ensuring cross-border knowledge sharing and innovation;
- digitally conclude Inter-Institutional Agreements (IIAs) and manage all mobility documentation electronically, eliminating the need for traditional postal services.

3. Promoting inclusive mobility and student development

DOBA Business School has an Erasmus+ Inclusion Strategy that outlines support for students with fewer opportunities across eight categories. Through this strategy and other activities, we:

- provide financial incentives and additional mobility grants for mobility participants with fewer opportunities;
- offer comprehensive support, including linguistic and cultural preparation for all mobility participants;
- guide students in accessing tools like the European Student Card and the Erasmus+ Mobile App for seamless mobility experiences.

4. Enhancing internationalisation at home

Internationalisation is deeply embedded in our curriculum and teaching practices. To foster a global perspective among students, we:

- implement COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) projects that develop cross-cultural competencies;

- equip students and staff with digital, linguistic, and cross-cultural skills through workshops, and mobility programs;
- integrate advanced tools, including artificial intelligence, into our online pedagogical approaches;
- ensure our Erasmus coordinator actively contributes as co-chair of the Internationalisation at Home Special Interest Group within the Businet network;
- embed sustainability in internationalisation efforts by encouraging low-carbon travel and environmentally friendly practices.

5. Supporting digitalisation and technological innovation

As pioneers in online learning, we continuously invest in modernizing our digital infrastructure. Key achievements include:

- awarded EOCCS certification by EFMD in 2024 for excellence in online learning;
- awarded UNIQUE certification;
- full digitalisation of mobility processes, aligning with the European Student Card initiative and Erasmus Without Paper framework.

6. Developing green and sustainable practices

Environmental awareness is an integral part of our mobility and internationalisation strategies. We:

- encourage students to adopt green practices during mobility;
- promote environmentally friendly and low-carbon travel options for international mobility.

7. Expanding opportunities through blended and virtual mobility

Given our 100% online study model, we are uniquely positioned to:

- enhance blended and virtual mobility initiatives, complementing physical mobility;
- provide accessible international learning opportunities regardless of geographic location or personal circumstances.

DOBA Business School remains committed to its mission of providing accessible, high-quality education to a diverse student population. Our continued engagement with the Erasmus+ program and alignment with its priorities reflect our dedication to fostering innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability in higher education.

Maribor, 28 January 2024