



# Erasmus+ Policy Statement

## PARTICIPATION IN ERASMUS+

Since its foundation in 2004, as a joint effort of all five public universities in the Barcelona metropolitan area (Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Universitat Pompeu Fabra) and CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) to promote postgraduate training and research in international relations, politics, and development, **IBEI main purpose has been to advance the understanding of global challenges to governance in our world.** Now into its second decade, IBEI has become a top-notch international academic and research center, that combines academic rigor, openness and transparency, courage to innovate, and a deep commitment to global causes.

IBEI conceives internationalization as the core of its institutional identity, as it is reflected in its institutional architecture, and the composition of its student body, academic and non-academic staff and governing bodies: for the academic year 2021-2022, incoming students came from more than 40 different countries, and teaching and research staff came from 22 different countries. IBEI's clear commitment to internationalization and to the construction of a strong European academy has led to its involvement as a partner, together with the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), the Universitat de Barcelona (UB) and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), in two Erasmus Mundus programs: the Erasmus Mundus Masters Program in Public Policy (in collaboration with the Central European University, the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam and the University of York) and the Erasmus Mundus Master in International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development (in collaboration with the University of Glasgow, Leuphana University, Radboud University, the Université libre de Bruxelles and the University of Tartu).

So far, IBEI has actively participated in ERASMUS+ actions under the umbrella of Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF). However, due to the growth of its activities, and the objectives it expects to achieve in the coming years, IBEI considers that having its own ECHE charter would give a much needed boost to the commitment towards building and strengthening the European academy. In recent years IBEI's orientation towards internationalization and contribution to the construction of the European Higher Education Area have been very relevant, and with the application to the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education IBEI seeks to consolidate and expand an agenda fully committed to quality, equity and sustainability. IBEI's commitment towards global internationalism is stronger than ever, and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have taught important lessons. Environmental and social responsibility awareness have become a non-negotiable standard to measure all IBEI activities.

IBEI internationalization strategy is directly related to its teaching and research model, and it is fully embedded in its institutional strategy, which provides a sound organizational and communication resources to underpin it. As detailed in the following paragraphs, IBEI's participation in Erasmus+ has as its main objective to strengthen the scope and depth of its current internationalization policies and practices, in accordance with the institution's mission, vision, and values, and as it is reflected on the institutional strategic plan 2021-2025.

In particular, IBEI intends to collaborate in the following actions, according to KA 1, 2 and 3:

## **I Foster and diversify mobility of students and staff**

The diversity of nationalities among students and faculty (40 and 22 different nationalities respectively), coupled with the markedly global focus of studies and research, make internationalization a key part of IBEI's own identity. With more than 22 active agreements with HEIs around the world (10 Erasmus+ agreements and 12 bilateral agreements with partner countries), IBEI puts learning mobility at the heart of its strategic internationalization actions. IBEI's quality worldwide network of academic agreements has contributed to attract a body of talented students and scholars from around the world.

Among the actions already implemented, it is worth mentioning the digitalization and implementation of the blended format for most of the teaching. As stated in the strategic plan, virtual class formats allow for international faculty without having to travel, thus minimizing the carbon emissions derived from air travel and maximizing quality learning opportunities for students. This has been carried out most recently within the ILGSPD programme, where in the first semester students in Glasgow attended research seminars hosted by the five other partners, including IBEI.

**With the participation in ERASMUS+, IBEI aims:**

- **To increase actions aimed at fostering student and staff mobility, under the general concept of grounded mobility:** a meaningful mobility, integrated into the overall curriculum and professional careers, and combined with blended mobility initiatives.
- **To expand the current network of European HEI agreements,** facilitating the mobility of students on all master's programmes.
- **To promote the mobility of pre-doctoral and post-doctoral researchers,** promoting short-term stays and blended mobility models that allow them to reinforce and expand their networking base, make their research known, and encourage future lines of collaboration between young European researchers.
- **To promote the participation of non-academic staff in mobility initiatives with European HEIs with which there are active agreements, both short term and in blended or virtual format.** These actions will promote the creation of European professional learning and lifelong learning communities, improving not only the skills and abilities of professionals but also contributing to the modernization and innovation of the institution.

- **To include internship mobility in IBEI's internship program, exploring virtual mobility internships as part of the students options.** IBEI participates in KA2 projects, bringing universities, companies, governmental and nonprofit institutions together, designing project-based and internship-based training modules. Curricular internships make up part of the curriculum of each Master's Programme. Students can optionally enroll in an internship offered by the as part of their curricular requirements.
- **To ensure that lack of financial means is not an impediment to mobility,** promoting a system of mobility grants for students, pre-doctoral and postdocs researchers.
- **To ensure that persons with special needs have equal access to the mobility opportunities** available to the rest of the IBEI community.

## Increase internationalization-at-home opportunities

## 2

IBEI is a fully internationalized institution, and creating a truly international ambiance has been a central goal since its beginning. Recognizing and fostering diversity-at-home is a transversal component of all IBEI policies and practices due to our international community, with 90% of students and more than 75% of teaching staff coming from abroad.

IBEI has been very active in taking advantage of the enormous potential of such a diverse body of students and staff. Thus, in recent years the following actions have been developed in the area of internationalization at home:

- **Trilingual communication:** All IBEI communication (internal and external) is published in three languages: English, Spanish, and Catalan. There is no separated channel of communication or contents for local and international students and staff, all the information is shared with all the members of the IBEI community.
- **Global Thinking in the center of all learning and research activities:** "Thinking Globally in Barcelona" is IBEI's central motto. An international approach is internalized along all the curriculum (see Annex 1), and also in IBEI's extensive series of seminars and conferences open to the entire IBEI community.  
([https://www.ibei.org/en/events\\_2321](https://www.ibei.org/en/events_2321))
- **Promotion of a third language learning,** addressed to students, through agreements with UPF, UB and UAB language learning services.  
(see information on link: [https://www.ibei.org/en/student-services\\_34583](https://www.ibei.org/en/student-services_34583))
- **Promotion of intercultural understanding activities among IBEI students.** Every year, the IBEI Student Association receives funding, to be used in academic and non-academic activities that contribute to creating a liaison between a very diverse student body and to highlight and honor cultural diversity and cultural understanding. These actions also aim to empower students so that they themselves have the opportunity to decide how they want to be involved in this international community. Some of the promoted activities were:

- The International Festival**, a social activity that showcases the national and cultural diversity represented at IBEI. The objective is for students to interact and to get to know each other and each other's heritage better. Faculty and staff are also invited to join.
- Student participation in United Nations Debate simulations** (Model United Nations, also known as MUN, is an educational simulation and/or academic competition. Participants are placed in committees and assigned countries, or occasionally other organizations or political figures, where they represent members of that body. They are presented with their assignments in advance, along with a topic or topics that their committee will discuss.
- Participation in the European Youth Event**, in collaboration with Universitat de Barcelona. The objective is to introduce IBEI students to mediation as an effective and straightforward process of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Through the theoretical and practical contribution of university scholars and professional mediators, students will be presented with an overview of the current state of the art of mediation and given the opportunity to train their own mediation skills.

**To deepen the scope of the internationalization at home actions, and within the framework of ERASMUS, IBEI proposes:**

- 1.** To create a new language offer, addressed to international staff. International academic and non-academic staff will have the chance to learn Spanish and/or Catalan language.
- 2.** To explicitly highlight the international character of the IBEI community, integrating it into the institution's social media communications.
- 3.** To create a regular meeting point with the local and international community with the aim of discussing topics of interest.

### 3 **Attract a diverse group of international top-notch students to competitive Master's degree programmes at IBEI**

All programmes at IBEI have an internationally oriented curriculum, and English is the teaching language in all of them, except for the Master's in International Relations which is also offered in a bilingual (English/Spanish) option. (See Annex 1 for details about curriculum content). The quality of teaching is a top priority at IBEI, as evidenced by the implementation of an Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS), whose utmost supervision is ruled by the Institute's Scientific Council, which evaluates the satisfaction of students and overall operation of the programmes, in order to guarantee the continual improvement of all master's degrees, and to subsequently report to the institution's highest governing body, the Board of Patrons. The aforementioned Council undertakes daily follow-up of the quality of the master's programmes, via the Teaching Quality Committee, the body responsible for managing, instigating and monitoring the Internal Quality Assurance System for the postgraduate training programmes run at the Institute. AQU, the Catalan Agency for University Quality, has accredited three of IBEI programmes as excellent, regarding its overall quality and its internationalization indicators, namely the Master's in International Relations, Master's in International Security and Master's in International Development (the newest programme is has not yet been evaluated within the four-year cycle). These mechanisms that guarantee the permanent review of the quality of teaching are very attractive to talented international students, as evidenced by the composition of IBEI's student body.

#### Future actions:

- **IBEI will continue on this path of excellence, and will continue to privilege double and joint degrees with preferred partners in the European Union.** Erasmus Mundus provides a perfect framework to develop those actions.
- **Within the framework of Erasmus, IBEI intends to strengthen the offer of partial and full scholarships to enable talented students from disadvantaged, underrepresented or special needs groups, both locally and from the rest of Europe to access studies.**

### **Excellence innovative cooperation partnerships**

Being an inter-university institute, although with operational autonomy, the idea of collaboration, alliances and networks is central to the very identity of IBEI. In addition to the collaboration established with all the public universities in the metropolitan area of Barcelona and with a research center and think-tank focused on international relations, IBEI has cultivated since its inception a very active line of collaboration with HEIs in Europe and other parts of the world.

With a very open policy regarding obtaining credits in other European university centers (under KA1, with partner universities) students, researchers and staff participate in a very rich ecosystem of centers, ideas and innovation.

### 4

In the next years, IBEI will:

- Facilitate mobilities of all profiles under KA1, with partners in all Europe, making possible meaningful exchanges for academics, students, and management staff.
- Encourage participation in KA2 and KA3 projects, with partners HEIs, with the general goal of testing innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and research.

## 5 Continuous improvement of information and services to international students and staff

In addition to producing all institutional information, both external and internal, in three languages (English, Spanish and Catalan), IBEI has an important structure of services to students and international staff. However, and in accordance with the institution's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation, IBEI is working to:

- Create a new portfolio of services provided to international students, academic and non-academic staff, aiming to provide better assistance to their particular needs. This portfolio will especially consider students and staff with particular needs, to grant accessibility and inclusiveness.
- Create a portal for students and staff that will present in a very clear and user-friendly way information about exchanges, agreements, mobility opportunities, and all kind of information related to internationalization

## Jean Monnet Actions

# 6

IBEI currently coordinates a Jean Monnet Network (SECUREU) and participates in two more (RENPET and CRISEUL).

**SECUREU** is a Jean Monnet Research Network on The Securitization of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities and the Rise of Xenophobia in the EU (SECUREU), under the H2020 Erasmus Mundus Program. SECUREU's research explores the securitization of migrants and its consequences for xenophobia in the context of the recent EU Refugee Crisis, which has fundamentally transformed EU migration policy but also led to contrasting reactions by individual countries. SECUREU further investigates the securitization of migrants and ethnic minorities from a historical perspective by focusing on how the framing of different minority groups has evolved over time and how ethnic minorities experience and deal with their representation in public discourse. In developing this research agenda SECUREU will promote a theoretical integration of the ethnicity/migration and securitization fields. Although both fields have examined migration and ethnic minorities, they have developed largely independent from one another.

**RENPET** is an Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Network of ten major universities across Europe and a leading pan-European professional academic association, under the H2020 Erasmus Mundus Program. RENPET builds on the strong cooperation established through the 2014-

2017 ANTERO Network and the 2017-2020 NORTIA Network. RENPET fosters cutting edge research, translates that research into innovative teaching and professional development and actively engages in policy debates among our powerful epistemic community.

**CRISEUL** is a Jean Monnet Research Network on Crisis-Equity-Democracy for Europe and Latin America (CRISEUL), under the H2020 Erasmus Mundus Program. The network focuses on the crisis management mechanisms and alternatives which can render European Union (EU) responses more effective and legitimate. The project also explores the possibilities of international cooperation with other regions and in particular Latin America, to strengthen global level financial and social regulation, as well as to promote the protection and promotion of democracy, human rights and the environment, key EU values and to the success of its role in the world.

The actions developed within the framework of the Jean Monnet program are vital to the strategy of research, internationalization, inter-institutional collaboration and training of new researchers. IBEI intends to increase its participation in the program by joining more networks in the future.

## Strategy, objectives and impact

### IBEI'S Mission, Vision, and Values

IBEI is an inter-university institute created in 2004 as a joint effort of all five public universities in the Barcelona metropolitan area (Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Universitat Pompeu Fabra) and CIDOB (Barcelona Center for International Affairs) to promote postgraduate training and research in international relations, politics & development, to advance the understanding of global challenges to governance in our world. Almost ending its second decade, IBEI has become consolidated and it is internationally recognized as a top-level academic and research center.

As well as its educational activities, it is worth stressing how fundamental it is for IBEI to have a substantial number of faculty under contract with a distinguished research profile. From the beginning, this team has been created by advertising annually for postdoctoral and assistant lecturer positions, and through fellowships for visiting scholars of noted academic standing. From 2008, this has been supplemented by researchers on secondment from Catalan universities and externally-funded researchers (ICREA, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, Ramón y Cajal and Juan de la Cierva programmes). Currently, IBEI has over 25 postdoctoral researchers in international relations, comparative politics and political economy. They are involved in a large number of research projects and maintain a high publication rate in the most relevant international specialist journals. Since its initial stage of expansion, IBEI has continued its commitment to attracting talented professionals as the basis for its institutional growth and enhancing the quality of its training programmes.

IBEI's current academic offer consist of the following programs:

The [\*\*Master's in International Development\*\*](#) is a one-year, interdisciplinary degree intended to educate future professionals in the area of development from a global perspective. It aims to provide students with a comprehensive set of analytical skills, robust training in research methods, and a thorough understanding of key issues such as global governance and development, economic growth and sustainability, conflict over limited resources, new emerging powers and social movements, and ongoing trends in inequalities in living standards.

The [\*\*Master's in International Relations\*\*](#) is an innovative educational proposal that responds to the challenges produced by globalization in recent years. Students receive a thorough basic education covering the analytical skills and in-depth knowledge needed to be able to assess crucial matters in the international sphere today. IBEI's courses have been designed to build the students' knowledge, broaden their horizons and develop the transferable skills they will be able to use in any international career. Students can choose either the bilingual (Spanish/English) or the English-language programme.

The [\*\*Master's in International Security\*\*](#) is a one-year, interdisciplinary programme intended to educate future professionals in the area of peace and war studies. Its aims are to provide students with a comprehensive set of analytical skills, robust training in research methods, and a thorough understanding of international conflicts in the 21st century whilst simultaneously demonstrating how they are embedded within the broader discipline of political studies and international relations.

The [\*\*Research Master's in International Studies\*\*](#) is an interdisciplinary 120-ECTS credit programme, taught in English, that combines the study of complex problems in international politics and related areas, with a strong focus on research methods in Social Sciences. The programme is designed to train policy analysts and researchers in different areas of international studies, providing them with advanced methods training and research skills that will enable them to develop or consolidate their professional and academic careers in competitive research environments.

The [\*\*Erasmus Mundus Masters Program in Public Policy \(Mundus MAPP\)\*\*](#) is an international two-year master funded by the European Union, which presents the new field of transnational public policy in a European context. This programme is taught by a consortium of four European higher education institutions: Central European University in Budapest (Hungary), the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University in The Hague (Netherlands), the University of York (UK) and the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (Spain).

The [\*\*Erasmus Mundus Master in International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development \(ILGSPD\)\*\*](#) is designed to train future lawyers and policy-makers with the ability to navigate the political and legal nexus of the multilateral system, by providing comprehensive knowledge about global security, peace and development. Developed in response to the growing need for graduates of excellence with leadership potential in international law and global affairs, this uniquely innovative two-year master programme benefits from the expertise of nine European partner Higher Education institutions and a

global network of 27 Associate Partners, including leading universities, research centres, international institutions, NGOs and law firms from around the world.

**During the months of June and July, IBEI supplements its educational curriculum with several international Summer Schools open to graduate students and professionals.**

Research is the second pillar supporting IBEI's academic development. The challenges of the future will mean a commitment to publicizing and strengthening our research work and its impact. Consolidating IBEI as a first-class international research center is particularly important for a number of reasons. First, in order to establish IBEI as a leading center for international studies, helping to connect Catalan society's interests and concerns with the current drive for globalization and internationalization – in this respect, having an in-depth knowledge of those aspects of the international scene that affect, or may affect, our country (and also to provide our own perspective on analyses of the international context) will become increasingly relevant. Secondly, to have an institution with an outstanding academic reputation at an international level, and achieve a position of recognised academic prestige on the international academic scene, acting as a magnet of attraction and facilitating links to the world's most prominent centers. Finally, in order to guarantee the highest standards in terms of the education of professionals and researchers in these fields, which is essential to strengthen the relationship between postgraduate education and quality research.

The growing number of researchers recruited by IBEI (in internal or external competitions), the secondment of outstanding faculty members to the Institute as researchers, and the numerous professors and scholars who have visited our institution for long periods of time, have resulted in IBEI obtaining competitive research projects that have increased the institution's scientific output over the past few years. This has given a major boost to research, with the development of work programmes and the attraction of new researchers.

The implementation and development of all these projects shows IBEI's willingness and excellent positioning as one of the main European centers of advanced training and research in politics and international relations.

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals is to promote scientific knowledge through advanced research and postgraduate education, with the aim of increasing the understanding of our world's global challenges in the domains of politics and international relations.

## **Vision Statement**

To be a European leader in the preparation of professionals and in scientific reflection in the field of international studies, by:

- Offering educational programmes of academic excellence, with the capacity to adapt to changing realities and demands.
- Stimulating and producing competitive research to attract international academic attention.

- Becoming a model of interuniversity organization, integrating the values and goals shared by its patron universities and institutions.

[The Strategic Plan for 2021-2025](#) defines further directions of growth, clearly aligned with the Erasmus+ agenda and objectives:

By participating in the Erasmus+ programme, IBEI clearly commits to contribute to the development of the Erasmus agenda, with increased staff and student involvement in mobility and related projects.

## Indicators

By holding its own ECHE, IBEI intends to achieve a major breakthrough in its own internationalization strategy, by further expanding the internationalization dimensions to many of its teaching and research activities and maximize the participation and involvement of all its stakeholders, particularly, students and staff but also international academic partners and partner institutions.

In number, IBEI defines the following quantitative targets in terms of mobility and participation diversity, to be reached by 2027:

- **To set a target of 40% mobility among its students, as a result of KA103, including blended mobility and internship mobility.** Students will receive advising and support to apply to their most suitable mobility path, according to the student's interests and circumstances. A crucial element in this target is warranty that students with special needs or those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds will have access to mobility.
- **Achieve at least 25% of blended mobility options (including internships) among the total number of students participating in mobility programs.**
- **To set a target of 25% mobility among post-doctoral researchers, including short-term and blended modalities.**
- **To pursue IBEI's participation in at least one new Erasmus Mundus joint degree programme, along with other leading European and international HEIs.**
- **To set a target of 25% mobility (all modalities) among its academic and non-academic staff.**

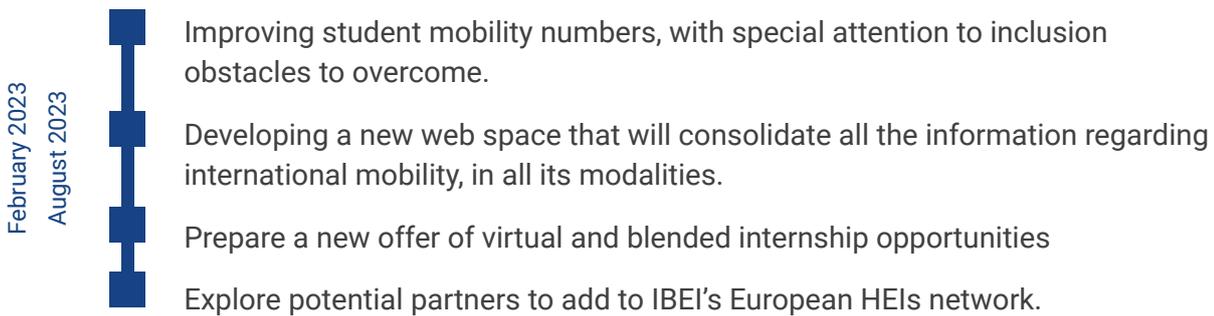
IBEI also intends to monitor qualitative indicators related to the satisfactions of participants, and perception of sustainability, accessibility and transparency of promoted projects. In particular, a comprehensive satisfaction survey will be administered to all participants in mobility projects (including not only classical mobility, but also blended and virtual).

Also, to foster sustainability of mobility practices, a Code of good practices will be elaborated, to be implemented along the second year of the Erasmus+ implementation.

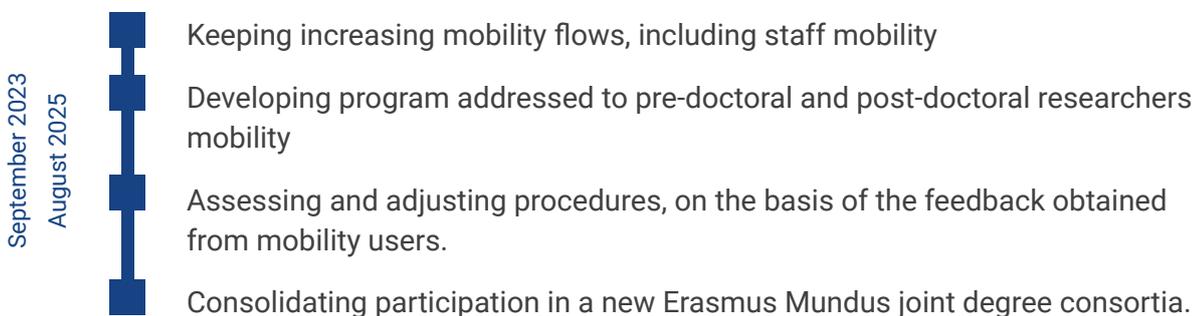
## Timeline

For better management, the project has been divided into three phases: the first one goes from February 2023 to August 2023, the second phase goes from September 2023 to August 2025, and the third phase, from September 2025 to August 2027.

On **phase 1**, IBEI's focus will be placed on:



On **phase 2**, IBEI will concentrate on:



On **phase 3**, IBEI expects to:

