



## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT – OVERALL STRATEGY

*Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees:*

UniCamillus is a new university dedicated to medical sciences with a strong international outlook. It welcomes students from all over the world and, already in its first year of activity, has over 40% international students, both European and non-European, coming from more than 10 countries (Romania, Russia, Switzerland, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, USA, Israel, Nigeria, Haiti, Venezuela, Benin, Indonesia, Senegal, Kenya). In line with the University's international profile, degree programs are mainly taught in English.

The University prepares its students to become versatile medical doctors, health professionals, and healthcare management experts who are attentive to the health issues of less fortunate countries. For this reason, it particularly targets young people who demonstrate humanitarian, scientific, and professional interest in health challenges primarily affecting developing countries. Internationalization and cooperation are two of the fundamental pillars of the University's strategy.

UniCamillus is focusing its efforts on developing its international dimension. It is also dedicated to defining concrete actions to improve its international activities, strengthening links between universities, research, and industry to foster excellence and innovation across various academic fields. Saint Camillus International University of Health Sciences aims to offer its students, both current and future, Italian and international, cosmopolitan experiences. Faculty members, coordinators, and administrative staff are fully engaged in the internationalization project and collaborate to support future student and staff mobility and exchange programs.

The University's efforts in international exchange projects are aimed not only at incoming and outgoing students but also at promoting cooperation in academic and research activities. Research is, in fact, the core of UniCamillus, focusing—through partnerships with multiple research centers—on the needs of less developed countries. Participation in the Erasmus Program, and in other European and non-European collaboration programs, represents a positive boost for the University, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, enriching its academic and training environment comprehensively.

Intra-university exchanges provide an excellent opportunity for students to transfer the know-how and experience acquired abroad upon their return, acting as “ambassadors” of Italian medical excellence and of their home country. The priority geographic areas identified by UniCamillus for

developing international collaboration agreements are Europe and the Mediterranean region, African countries, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. To this end, the University maintains frequent contacts with the embassies of various countries to promote collaborative initiatives with foreign institutions and to showcase its potential.

For internationalization purposes, the choice of partners is a key factor. The criteria adopted by UniCamillus for selecting partners are based on:

- Specific educational and training needs identified by departments and their coordinators;
- Priorities assigned to different disciplinary areas;
- Proven quality of the educational offerings of universities/institutions/organizations for cooperation agreements;
- Affinity and complementarity of foreign programs with its own curricula;
- Innovative academic programs and research projects with strong appeal;
- Internationality of courses, including linguistic diversity (courses offered in multiple languages);
- Attention to quality services offered to mobile students;
- Ease and willingness of faculty and administrative staff at prospective partner universities to interact for better integration of students and staff into the academic system.

To facilitate exchanges, UniCamillus focuses on the quality of international relations and communication, first by improving the language skills of outgoing students and, for incoming students, by offering Italian and English courses to ease integration into the national environment. Although in its first year of activity, UniCamillus has established relationships and signed agreements for future international cooperation with several academic centers in the Middle East and Central Africa and is in the process of signing additional agreements, expanding its network of contacts with international institutions.

*Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.*

*If not applicable, please explain:*

Our University aims to contribute to the development of society through high-quality teaching, basic research across various fields of medical knowledge, and a strong focus on internationalization and cooperation with foreign institutions and universities. UniCamillus strives for excellence in managing the various processes of internationalization.

From the outset, the University seeks to implement coordination systems between academic departments and administrative offices to facilitate procedures related to international mobility. It is attentive to providing services to students beyond purely academic aspects, establishing language courses, a student help desk for “customer satisfaction,” and comprehensive assessments on academic quality and individual courses, thereby promoting a policy of transparency.

For UniCamillus, internationalization is synonymous with enrichment, offering students—both Italian and international—the opportunity to study in multiethnic classes and to undertake internships in cutting-edge foreign hospitals. UniCamillus aims to initiate and select partner universities by defining criteria that ensure high academic standards.

The University seeks to establish lasting relationships with privileged partners, both within the European Union and beyond, who represent excellence in the academic landscape and focus on humanitarian, scientific, and professional issues related to health challenges.

UniCamillus intends to concentrate internal resources in specific areas where greater investment can yield the best results in terms of national and international competitiveness, thus enhancing the University's visibility and prestige in Italy, Europe, and beyond. Additionally, degree programs include courses in social sciences to promote multiculturalism, ensuring that future professionals develop a differentiated approach according to the social context in which they will operate.

To this end, UniCamillus has established relationships and academic cooperation agreements with leading centers of excellence in member states, partner countries, and beyond. The new University maintains a constant openness toward the outside world, fostering relationships with foreign delegations in the national territory—primarily embassies and consulates—as well as contacts with local authorities to promote initiatives and showcase the University's academic and educational potential.

*Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution.*

*Please refer to each of the priorities of the renewed EU Agenda for higher education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area\* and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue:*

UniCamillus' participation in the Erasmus+ program will positively impact the modernization of the University through:

- Greater involvement of the University in international projects;
- Increased visibility of the newly established University, enhancing its ability to attract researchers, students, and faculty from many countries;
- Opportunities to develop new study programs, including joint programs;
- Access to new funding to support innovative and cutting-edge research projects and other educational activities;
- Improvement in the quality of teaching and, more broadly, in the University's governance system.

In line with the objectives set by the EU, UniCamillus aims to adopt a strategy that increases both the quality and quantity of higher education in Italy, Europe, and worldwide. The University intends to train professionals capable of playing an increasingly active role in societal transformations.

Furthermore, it seeks to encourage and expand the pool of students who can benefit from studying abroad in increasingly cosmopolitan contexts, thereby promoting the circulation and acquisition of new knowledge, skills, methodologies, and educational opportunities. The effectiveness and efficiency of higher education systems represent one of the main tools for the economic, political, and social development of any country.

Mobility contributes to improving employability in local and global labor markets, offering the opportunity to experience new cultures, learn languages, and acquire intercultural skills. Attracting international students is an excellent opportunity to invest in talent whose professional future can also contribute positively to our country. These students are likely to remain privileged contacts and ambassadors of our culture and excellence in their home countries.

The University will also seek to stimulate investment in research fundraising and increase efforts to provide financial support to students through scholarships and full-coverage honor loans. Exchanges with other international institutions offer UniCamillus the opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of its governance by adopting new managerial models for managing the various phases of exchange and cooperation processes. Additionally, such exchanges provide insights for implementing advanced tutoring methods, placement systems, and innovative and rational student selection methodologies, aiming to reduce barriers to international mobility.