

Erasmus Policy Statement

9 December 2025 | President's Office

The University of Basel

The University of Basel is a research-intensive, globally networked comprehensive university with a history spanning more than 560 years. Founded in 1460, it is not only the oldest university in Switzerland but also one of the most storied universities in Europe. As an important center of European humanism, it combines a long tradition in the humanities with modern, cutting-edge research—particularly in the life sciences and medicine.

Its unique location in the Upper Rhine trinational region (Switzerland, Germany, France) in the center of Europe makes it a global hub for science and innovation. Shaped by the headquarters of major international companies, a cosmopolitan cultural sphere, excellent transport links (by plane, train, car, or ship), and a long tradition of cross-border collaboration, the Basel region provides an open-minded, dynamic environment. Embedded in one of Europe's strongest economic regions and based on a liberal worldview, the university benefits from a science-oriented and innovation-friendly climate.

The University of Basel already has a highly international student body: Around a quarter of all students and doctoral candidates possess a foreign diploma (26.8 percent). While at the bachelor's level the proportion is 14.4 percent, it rises to 25.8 percent at the master's level and even exceeds half (53 percent) at the doctoral level.

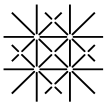
The strategic goal of the University of Basel is to continue to position itself as an outstanding teaching and research institution—regionally anchored and internationally visible. In doing so, it significantly contributes to scientific progress, innovative capacity, and the attractiveness of the Basel region as a place to live and work. A particular focus lies on strategically leveraging and further expanding the unique locational advantages of the trinational region—for a sustainable combination of tradition, excellence, and global reach ([Strategy 2022–2030](#)).

Strategic goals

Internationalization plays a central role in achieving the strategic objectives. Erasmus+, the EU program for education, training, youth, and sport, is a decisive factor in this regard, as it promotes mobility and exchange between students, lecturers, and educational institutions.

By participating in Erasmus+, the University of Basel pursues the following goals:

- Competitiveness
Increasing the attractiveness of educational and teaching programs by further modernizing, internationalizing, and qualitatively improving them.
- Preparing for global challenges and sharpening the understanding of intercultural contexts
Improving the employability of students and doctoral candidates by further promoting skills like, in particular, intercultural and digital skills as well as personal development.



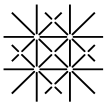
- Knowledge transfer
Contributing to solving global challenges by enabling students, doctoral candidates, lecturers, and researchers—with support from stakeholders in academia and society—to collaborate across borders, exchange research results and teaching methods, and participate in outreach activities and innovative formats of entrepreneurship.

Focus areas, target groups, and activities

The University of Basel understands internationalization as a comprehensive alignment of teaching, research, innovation, and administration with international standards, collaborations, and exchange formats. It wants to measure itself against the best and learn from them. As a cross-cutting task, it is jointly pursued by the university management, faculties, departments, and institutes—both at the central and decentralized levels. The University of Basel consists of seven faculties and various university and associated institutes, including the University of Basel's Institute for European Global Studies and other internationally oriented institutions such as Swisspeace: The Swiss Peace Foundation and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH). The university has a long tradition of close collaborations within the European Higher Education Area and with leading universities worldwide, particularly in North America, Asia, and Africa. For over fifteen years, it has also served as the Leading House Africa on behalf of the State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (SERI) with the aim of intensifying scientific collaboration between Switzerland and Africa by promoting research projects, supporting exchange programs, and intensifying advising and networking. These international partnerships provide a foundation and opportunities for Erasmus+ projects.

To achieve the goals mentioned in the previous section, the University of Basel would like to increase the mobility of students in particular but also of university staff and to expand the joint course offerings with partner universities with a focus on innovative short-term formats and low-threshold hybrid and online formats, such as blended intensive programs (BIPs) and collaborative online international learning (COIL) at both the undergraduate and doctoral levels. The thematic focus of the courses will primarily be on socially relevant topics such as sustainability, European identities, health, and artificial intelligence. In addition, special courses will specifically involve regional stakeholders from academia and society in teaching, and joint formats with partner universities in the field of entrepreneurial skills will be developed. The university will furthermore promote the integration of international elements into the curriculum of degree programs (e.g., mobility recommendations, mobility windows, or joint modules with partner universities) and the establishment of joint doctoral programs.

Another key component of internationalization is opportunities for longer stays abroad, internships, and staff exchanges within the framework of Erasmus+. It is important to have a good framework and careful support for outgoing and incoming students and employees (the university has an International Office with a Student Exchange Office and a Welcome and Euraxess Center as well as other advisory services). The university also offers financial support through scholarships and various instruments for supporting early career researchers. In addition, it provides intercultural courses and a wide range of language courses (run by the Language Center). The language offerings encompass around twenty languages and are supplemented by additional services such as rhetoric courses and support for writing academic texts in various languages. These services are available for students, doctoral candidates, and employees. The university also currently has twenty-seven degree programs that are taught in English, and another twenty-two degree programs have elements in English or another language. In twenty-nine graduate schools and doctoral programs, Basel doctoral candidates work on current research questions together with international doctoral students and researchers. The University of Basel is a bilingual university; all communication at the University of Basel is conducted in German and English.



European university alliances and partner universities worldwide

The Upper Rhine university alliance [Eucor](#): The European Campus and the University of Basel's participation in the European Universities Initiative—currently through its involvement in [EPICUR](#) (European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions)—provide an ideal framework for implementing the activities outlined above.

The two university alliances create fertile ground for developing innovative teaching formats in an international context. They are based on shared European values, such as openness, academic freedom, and intercultural exchange, and offer reliable partnership networks that foster trust-based collaboration. Through inspiration, a legal basis, and a shared vision and structure, they strengthen cooperation and enable sustainable projects. The financial resources provided by the partner universities act as catalysts and ensure the long-term continuity of the collaborations.

Eucor: The European Campus

The University of Basel has been a member of Eucor: The European Campus—a trilateral university alliance with the University of Freiburg, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), the University of Strasbourg, and the University of Haute-Alsace—since 1989. As the first European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) in the higher-education sector, Eucor has raised over twenty million euros in external funding since 2016, particularly for international, interdisciplinary, and intersectional doctoral programs. In addition, 8.4 million euros in seed money has been invested in sixty-five cross-border projects in research, teaching, and innovation. Students, doctoral candidates, lecturers, and administrative staff directly benefit from these initiatives through more attractive study, teaching, and training opportunities, improved exchange and mobility options, and an excellent research environment.

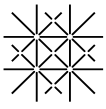
The alliance has been pursuing a joint strategy ([Strategy 2030](#)) since 2019, and the president of the University of Basel has led Eucor as its president since 2021. The alliance plays a pioneering role in Europe in cross-border university collaboration and is considered a trailblazer of European university alliances. It offers students unique opportunities: They can freely choose courses from the catalogue of all five universities, access services and discounts at partner universities, and receive reimbursements for travel expenses. They also benefit from intercultural and sports programs, research internships, binational theses, and joint degree programs with double or triple degrees. For employees, there is mobility support, staff weeks, and best-practice events.

In the future, the potential of Eucor will be leveraged even more strategically. For example, expanding joint doctoral schools, study modules, and professorships should enhance the attractiveness of the courses on offer, promote mobility, and optimally prepare students for a globalized world.

European Universities Initiative

Since 2022, the University of Basel has been involved through Eucor in the European university alliance EPICUR (EPICUR-SHAPE-IT project), which has been supported by the Swiss program for Erasmus+ (2022–2026). This has enabled the university to acquire valuable experience, build expertise and structures for future full membership, and benefit from current trends in higher education and European mobility. In addition, the university has actively participated in the discourse on shaping the European Higher Education Area.

In addition to the Eucor partners, EPICUR brings together the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan,



the University of Southern Denmark in Odense, and the University of Amsterdam. By strengthening teaching, digital transformation, and student mobility, the alliance aims to develop innovative solutions to societal challenges and to educate future change agents.

Through EPICUR, the university has created exclusive courses for students and doctoral candidates that offer practice-oriented, innovative teaching formats in international teams and strengthen intercultural, language, and project-management skills. The courses optimally prepare students for career starts in multilingual Switzerland, with international partners, or in other European countries. University employees also benefit from mobility and networking opportunities, which have given rise to synergy projects and outreach activities.

The University of Basel is seeking full membership in a European university alliance in order to exploit the full potential of the initiative. It thereby aims to actively shape the future of the European Higher Education Area, develop forward-looking teaching formats such as blended intensive programs (BIPs) and collaborative online international learning (COIL), and further increase the mobility of students, lecturers, and employees.

Partner universities

The faculties, departments, and institutes have numerous partnerships with universities worldwide. This is reflected in, among other things, around three hundred Swiss–European Mobility Programme (SEMP; the Swiss equivalent of Erasmus+) agreements and around sixty global partnership agreements. These mobility opportunities are being strategically expanded, and their visibility for students and employees is being tactically increased.

Quality, sustainability, and diversity

The University of Basel fosters a culture of diversity and sustainability. It values the acquisition of intercultural skills, the diversity-conscious design of study, research, and administrative procedures, and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. This also includes promoting sustainable mobility (green travel), supporting academics in need (through participation in the international Scholars at Risk network and through the Coordination Office for Refugees), collaborating with countries and partners in the Global South, and expanding opportunities for students and employees through internationalization at home.

The quality of the courses at international universities is continuously evaluated in consultation with outgoing students and lecturers. In addition, the University of Basel's mobility figures are now included in the university performance report and continuously evaluated.