

Erasmus Policy Statement

The internationalisation strategy established at the Scuola Superiore per Mediatori Linguistici Nelson Mandela (SSML, Higher Education Institution for Linguistic Mediators) favours, but without any obligation, the choice of partner institutions with an academic profile compatible with ours and a study plan similar to that one of the our Bachelor's degree course in Linguistic Mediation. We will preferably choose our partners in the geographical areas whose official languages are the same taught in the degree course in Linguistic Mediation: we especially mean English, French, Spanish and German. By moving in this direction, we want to give our students, not only the opportunity to improve their language skills, but also their interpersonal and intercultural skills, which are essential for any professional who works in the linguistic mediation field.

The protagonists of the mobility will be the students of the Bachelor's degree course in Linguistic Mediation to support the strengthening and the development of their skills, but also their awareness of being European citizens. However, the international strategy at SSML Nelson Mandela implies that the mobility will be promoted also among our institution's staff.

All things considered the internationalisation strategy of the Scuola Superiore per Mediatori Linguistici Nelson Mandela aims to pursue the following goals:

- To promote the international mobility among outgoing and incoming students and staff.
- To increase the awareness among our institution's students and staff of the international and European dimension of the higher education system they belong to.
- The modernisation of the education system of which the SSML Nelson Mandela is part (according to the 2011 EU Modernisation Agenda).
- By comparing to the educational policies and methodologies of foreign institutions in different countries, to improve the quality of teaching and the professional skills of our institution's staff.
- To increase the number of our partners over time aiming, meanwhile, to simplify the recognition at EU level of the skills and qualifications acquired during period of mobility abroad.
- To improve the development of our students' linguistic, digital, intercultural and professional competences, but also their spirit of initiative, to increase their career prospects and make easier their access to the international and Italian labour market.

Our institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects inserts itself in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme following the guidelines of the Bologna Declaration, the cross-border common policy priorities established by the European Commission (especially those ones in the education and training field) and the specific priorities in the higher education system (which the SSML Nelson Mandela belongs to). Our future international cooperation projects, indeed, will aim to play an active role in the promotion of the mobility as part of a general effort for the improvement of the quality and the efficacy of teaching, the equity, the social cohesion and the active citizenship, and the modernisation of the higher education systems. At the same time, considering the specific features of our institution, the SSML Nelson Mandela will mainly support the study and the knowledge of languages and mediation

techniques (translation and interpreting) as essential tools for social inclusion and integration in multicultural environments.

With reference to expected impact of our participation in the Erasmus+ Programme and 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda, the Scuola Superiore per Mediatori Linguistici Nelson Mandela intends to pursue the following objectives:

1. Increasing the number of higher education graduates by attracting more and more learners towards our degree course, also considering that thanks to the Erasmus+ Programme the students will go through an intercultural dimension exactly as they will do in any work environment related to the linguistic mediation they will find after the graduation.
2. Enhancing the quality and relevance of the higher education, also thanks to the comparison with participant and partner institution educational policies, to ensure that our institution aims for excellence, flexibility and innovation; we will particularly focus on adopting innovative and flexible methodologies in teaching and learning foreign languages and the translation and interpreting techniques (related always more to the ICT) which are fundamental for future mediators, translators and interpreters; in this way we want to have made the higher education system in accordance with the labour market demands.
3. Improving the quality thanks to mobility and the cross-border cooperation with a systematic integration of mobility into curriculum (even because strongly in line with it) and a simplification of the effective recognition of the credits acquired abroad and of the academic qualifications.
4. Fostering a strong connection among higher education, research and innovation aiming to be a centre of excellence that, counting on our international dimension, can contribute significantly to the development of the regional environment to which the SSML Nelson Mandela belongs.
5. Enhancing the governance and the funding through administrative and financial mechanisms which prove to be efficient in creating a centre of excellence in the higher education system in which the SSML Nelson Mandela is part.