

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

Participation in Erasmus+

IES Alfonso X el Sabio in Murcia is the third oldest high school in Spain, founded on October 5, 1837, making it 187 years old. This gives us the privilege of being part of an educational institution with extensive experience and a strong teaching tradition.

At our school, students can pursue **Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO)**, **Baccalaureate** programs, including the Research and International tracks, and **Vocational Training** in the field of **Information Technology and Communications**. We offer **Basic Vocational Training in Office IT**, the **Intermediate Vocational Training in Microcomputer Systems and Networks**, and the **Higher Vocational Education in Multiplatform Application Development**, available both on-site and online.

It is worth highlighting that Secondary and Baccalaureate education is delivered through bilingual models in **English, French, and German**. As such, we have departments dedicated to these three languages, fostering a richer and more diverse educational experience.

During the 2022/23 academic year, the school participated in its first **Erasmus+ mobility program** through the project "Training for Europe." This initiative focused on staff mobility, aiming to enhance teachers' skills related to designing European projects. The program targeted teachers of Secondary and Baccalaureate education.

Since the 2022/23 academic year, both VET teachers and students have benefitted from Erasmus+ scholarships organized by the **Department of Education and Vocational Training of the Region of Murcia**. Specifically, five students from the Basic Vocational Training program in Office IT traveled to **Prague**, accompanied by a teacher, for two weeks of practical training. Under the same program, another teacher participated in a one-week **Job Shadowing** in **Croatia**.

However, students and teachers engaged in **Higher Education Studies** have not yet had the opportunity to undertake mobility experiences for internships in EU countries through Erasmus+ programs. Thus, we have decided to launch this project.

To complete their vocational studies, students must undertake an internship period in a company. We plan for our **High Education Studies** students to complete this internship in a European Union country, fostering **internationalization**, enhancing students' **employability**, and providing them with opportunities to better understand **European culture and values**.

We also aim to enable a group of Vocational Training teachers to participate in **Job Shadowing** or attend training courses relevant to our field, such as topics related to **Artificial Intelligence** or **ICTs**, which are closely linked to our professional area.

Additionally, we intend to host European teachers who wish to learn about our facilities and teaching methods, connect them with companies in our field, and even invite them to visit the **University of Murcia**, a key partner of our school, as several teachers teach in both institutions.

Benefits for Students and Teachers

For students, participating in this program will offer a valuable **international experience** to include on their CVs, exposure to new work environments, and opportunities to experience different business cultures and methodologies. They will also significantly enhance their **language skills**, with intensive practice and technical vocabulary acquisition. This, in turn, will foster personal growth, greater autonomy, and maturity, while increasing their self-confidence. Students will also gain cultural insights, inspiring others through shared experiences.

For teachers, the Erasmus+ program will provide opportunities to observe and learn directly from European colleagues, gaining exposure to **innovative teaching methodologies** and updating their **technical and pedagogical skills**. They, too, will improve their **language** and **intercultural competencies**, while discovering new educational tools and digital resources to enhance teaching practices. These experiences will benefit the entire institution through the dissemination of acquired knowledge and help **internationalize** the school. Teachers will also have the chance to compare curricula and adapt teaching practices to the **key competencies** defined by the European Union, such as **digitalization**, **entrepreneurship**, and **sustainability**.

Importance of the Program

This program is a crucial step in the **modernization** and **quality improvement** of education at our institution. Through such projects, both teachers and students can acquire essential competencies in a globalized environment.

From a modernization perspective, it enables the introduction of **advanced technologies** in the classroom and promotes the adoption of **innovative methodologies**, such as **project-based learning** and the use of **digital platforms**. Additionally, it aligns curricula with the demands of the European labor market, emphasizing practical, digital, and linguistic skills.

Regarding quality improvement, students benefit from **international internships** that enhance their employability. These experiences motivate students by offering practical and meaningful learning in real-world contexts. Similarly, teachers gain key competencies by observing and applying successful practices from other countries, enriching their professional performance and pedagogical approach.

Vision for the Future

With the Erasmus+ program, we aim to internationalize our institution, fostering an **open mindset toward cultural diversity**. Both students and teachers will develop **intercultural sensitivity**, **teamwork skills**, and **language abilities**. In the long term, this experience will not only transform the individuals involved but also strengthen the school's reputation, positioning it as a benchmark for quality education at the European level.

Conclusion

We aspire to drive **modernization** and enhance the **quality of education** by preparing both students and teachers to meet the challenges of a global and interconnected world.

Strategy, objectives and impact

Strategy

The **IES Alfonso X el Sabio** prioritizes the internationalization of its educational offerings in the field of Vocational Training as a strategic goal. Participation in the **Erasmus+ program** will enable us to integrate a European dimension into our educational activities, connecting students and teachers with cutting-edge practices, methodologies, and technologies from other European Union countries.

Our strategy is built on three fundamental pillars:

1. **Mobility for international practical learning:** Encourage a significant percentage of our Vocational Training students to undertake internships in European companies. These

experiences will allow them to apply their technical knowledge in real and multicultural work environments, enhancing their adaptability and employability in a globalized labor market.

2. **Professional development for teaching staff:** Promote teacher participation in training activities, such as **job shadowing** in European institutions. This will not only allow them to learn new pedagogical methodologies but also to incorporate advanced digital tools and innovative approaches into their classrooms.

3. **Establishment of international networks:** Strengthen strategic alliances with European educational institutions and companies for the exchange of best practices, knowledge transfer, and the development of joint projects that improve the quality of our educational offerings.

The main **objective** of **IES Alfonso X el Sabio** in participating in the Erasmus+ program is to ensure high-quality education that prepares our Vocational Training students to face the challenges of an increasingly globalized and demanding labor market. Below, we outline our specific objectives:

- Facilitate internships in European companies for Vocational Training students. These experiences will strengthen their technical skills, such as programming, database management, and user interface design, adapting them to international standards.
- Promote the development of key skills such as intercultural communication, teamwork in diverse environments, and personal autonomy, which are essential for professional success.
- Foster professional growth through participation in training and observation activities (**job shadowing**) in European institutions. This will enable teaching staff to update their technical and pedagogical knowledge, incorporating innovative methodologies and cutting-edge technological tools.
- Encourage the creation of international professional networks for the exchange of best practices and the design of joint projects that enrich our educational offerings.
- Modernize and strengthen curricula by integrating innovative pedagogical and technological approaches identified in other European countries.
- Enhance the school's reputation as a leader in international vocational training in the field of IT.

These objectives align with our vision to train competitive professionals who are committed to innovation and prepared to contribute to a globalized environment.

Impact

Participation in the **Erasmus+ program** will have a significant and lasting impact on students, teachers, and the school as a whole, contributing to the modernization of education and strengthening our position as a leading educational institution.

Impact on Students

- Students from the **Advanced Vocational Training in Multiplatform Application Development** program will gain work experience in European companies, improving their employability and adaptability to different cultural and professional contexts.
- Participation in international internships will develop key skills such as teamwork in multicultural environments, proficiency in technical English, and problem-solving in real-world scenarios, preparing students for a globalized labor market.
- Increased confidence, autonomy, and personal motivation as they face challenges outside their comfort zones.

Impact on Teachers

- Exposure to innovative methodologies and advanced technologies through international training activities will enrich teaching practices, improving the quality of education.
- Building international networks will foster a continuous flow of ideas and best practices,

encouraging collaboration in globally impactful educational projects.

Impact on the School

- Modernization of curricula, aligning them with European standards and the demands of the international labor market.
- Enhanced reputation as an institution committed to educational excellence and internationalization, attracting students and strategic partners.
- Promotion of a culture of innovation, diversity, and openness across the educational community, reinforcing European values of inclusion and collaboration.

Conclusion

The Erasmus+ program will transform learning and teaching at **IES Alfonso X el Sabio**, driving modern, inclusive, and future-oriented education.

Indicators

Since the implementation of **Higher Education Studies**, our institution has prioritized **Key Action 1 of Erasmus**, focusing exclusively on student mobility for professional internships and excluding study mobility. These experiences are essential for both students and teachers to learn different working methods in other countries.

Program Promotion:

We participate in the **Erasmus Days** with motivational activities, sharing the results of mobilities, and using platforms like **eTwinning** and **EPALE** to disseminate best practices. We also involve the students' families, explaining the benefits of the program to them.

Student Profile:

Candidates must be in their second year, have passed the required modules, demonstrate maturity and a strong academic record, possess proficiency in English or the language of the destination, and submit a CV in the Europass format. In cases of financial dependence, parental consent is required.

Selection Process:

Every October, the call for applications is published with clear deadlines:

- **Informative sessions:** Second week of October.
- **Call publication:** Third week of October.
- **Application submissions:** During the first week of November.
- **Interviews and document submission:** Second week of November.
- **Provisional results:** Third week of November.
- **Final results:** Fourth week of November.
- **Planning meeting:** December.

This process ensures transparency and fairness in the selection of participants, thereby promoting the success of the program.