

## Webster Erasmus Policy Statement

Webster Vienna Private University (WVPU) occupies a unique position in the Austrian educational landscape. It is the only university in Vienna offering an international education, holding both an American as well as Austrian accreditation. Furthermore, our Bachelor, Master and MBA degrees are recognized by the ACBSP (Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs).

Webster Vienna Private University is part of the Webster University network, present in 8 countries with over 100 campuses spread over four continents.. The students in Vienna are also international: WVPU's students represent over 70 nationalities, and faculty and staff over 20. With no national representation exceeding 20%, everyone on the Vienna campus is a minority. This international atmosphere helps form lifelong international bonds of friendship and a community united by mutual respect and understanding.

Considering Webster Vienna's international composition, it is clear that internationalisation is at the core of WVPU's values and strategy. Webster Vienna private university has identified four core values based on the mission of Webster University as a whole:

**Our Mission:** *Webster University, a worldwide institution, ensures high quality learning experiences that transform students for global citizenship and individual excellence.*

**Our Goals:**

- **Global Citizenship:** By educating a diverse population locally, nationally, and internationally, acting responsibly toward the environment to foster a sustainable future and strengthening the communities we serve.
- **Learning:** By developing educational programs that join theory/ research and practice, instill passion for intellectual pursuit, inspire academic inquiry, provide an international perspective, encourage creativity and scholarship, and foster a lifelong desire to learn and actively serve communities and the world.
- **Diversity:** By creating an environment accessible to individuals of diverse cultures, ages, gender, and socioeconomic backgrounds and instilling in students a respect for diversity and an understanding of their own and others' values.
- **Students:** By sustaining a personalized approach to education through small classes, close relationships with faculty and staff, and attention to student life.

### Strategic Goals in Internationalization

- **Increasing student exchange:** Between 5-10% of the student body participate in an exchange. WVPU is seeking to increase its student exchange agreements with other institutions and gradually increase student mobility. In addition, WVPU is committed to expanding its exchange options other than semester exchange. For instance, seeks to have more programs such as the European Studies Summer School it currently offers in partnership with Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

- **Faculty Exchange:** Continuously increasing faculty exchanges is an important goal of WVPU, contributing to the personal development of our faculty as well as fostering the exchange of ideas. WVPU engages a number of visiting faculty on a regular basis, and has an endowment for outstanding visiting faculty.
- **Strengthening Research Cooperation:** WVPU is committed to strengthening research cooperation with other universities outside of Austria. WVPU has already started a pilot visiting scholars program that enables WVPU to collaborate with other European scholars on cutting-edge research and foster research links between different European regions.
- **Building Knowledge Alliances:** WVPU has an extensive network of businesses and international organizations, established through the Director's Advisory Board, Alumni Association, and through individual agreements. WVPU harnesses this network in order to provide internships for students, to bring in practitioners to teach hands-on aspects to students, and to provide seminars and trainings to faculty, students and staff. Expanding and better leveraging these alliances is an important goal of WVPU.
- **International Cooperation:** Webster University is interested in cooperating with partner countries outside the EU, particularly the Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership Countries, and the Russian Federation, facilitating students from those countries to participate in student mobility programs at WVPU using the financial instruments of EU external action. WVPU is also interested in supporting its faculty to contribute to educational modernization projects in these countries through workshops and training. For instance, WVPU has already assisted the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the building of its accreditation system. More efforts of this type would be supported.

**Criteria for choosing partners:**

When considering partner institutions, WVPU will seek institutions with a compatible educational philosophy, namely those place a high value on joining theory/research and practice, provide an international perspective, value small class sizes and individual attention.

The primary target group for Webster Mobility programs are faculty and students interested in experiencing liberal arts education in the heart of Europe. Webster welcomes students from all over Europe, but due to its central location it is ideally placed to foster East-West mobility, and forge relationships with the partner countries in the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership Countries, and the Russian Federation.