

Strategy for Internationalisation – Erasmus School of Law

1. Mission and Rationale

The internationalization strategy of Erasmus School of Law (ESL) is rooted in the school's mission to create positive societal impact through the development and application of scientific knowledge and methods in legal and criminological research and education. It is also aligned with the main goals for internationalization vision of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)¹ by embedding inclusive, high-quality collaboration, talent development, and strategic partnership development into all activities. In an increasingly interconnected world, strong and meaningful international engagement is essential to achieving this mission. As Erasmus School of Law, our internationalization strategy commits also to the Erasmian values, which inspires us to be world citizens, connect, and be open minded to the people and the world around us, while at the same time standing true to our school's motto "Where Law Meets Business".

Meaningful, sustainable collaboration with like-minded and trustworthy international partners can contribute to ESL to remain academically competitive, socially relevant, and responsive to global developments. In all interrelated thematic research clusters of Erasmus School of Law, which are closely linked to the five EUR impact domains, international engagement stimulates the drive forward, keeping us at the bow of research and education. Through international exchange on all levels, ESL strengthens its capacity to fulfil ESL's strategy and remain competitive.

2. Vision for Internationalization

ESL envisions internationalization as an integrated and strategic pillar of its identity, for staff and students. The school aims to build on and cultivate a sustainable global partner network with whom it actively exchanges knowledge, shares best practices, build international research consortia, and co-develops innovative approaches to legal and criminological education and research. In this, Erasmus School of Law seeks to build partnerships with institutions that share its commitment to excellence, diversity, equity, inclusion, academic freedom, and the independence of research. These shared values form the foundation for sustainable and meaningful international collaboration.

ESL envisions being a stimulating environment for international research collaborations, encouraging joint research collaborations of staff in all departments. ESL also welcomes international researchers for short research stays on topics that are clearly relevant to Erasmus School of Law's research profile, or as part of the academic staff and faculty, contributing to the school's strategy on research and teaching. The school continues building on an attractive pool of LL.M. (Master of Laws) programs for national and international master students and embraces also (European) Joint Education. Joint

¹ The main goals of the Erasmus University Internationalisation Strategy for the coming period are:

- I. To ensure inclusive internationalization aimed at quality of research and education at EUR
- II. To attract and retain international talent
- III. To optimize EUR external cooperation
- IV. To improve mobility balance at EUR
- V. To enhance professional support



support structures and processes are developed to streamline interaction with other organizational units within and outside the School of Law. With engagement in our European Joint Master programs covering core disciplines, Erasmus School of Law is currently the leader in European joint education at Erasmus University.

Fulfilling our international contribution by facilitating student mobility through our Erasmus+ agreements with selected international partners, international student exchange is an important cornerstone of ESL's internationalization efforts. The school is committed to providing our own students with high-quality international experience through carefully selected exchange partnerships. These partnerships are based on alignment in educational philosophy and curriculum compatibility, ensuring that our students can successfully complete their studies within the expected timeframe. ESL actively facilitates exchange opportunities for both ESL's law and criminology students, while also offering an accessible and relevant curriculum for incoming international students.

Also, academic staff can benefit from international exchange with trusted partners through existing partnership agreements: international students and colleagues for collaborations in research and education can be hosted, so that ESL's students can benefit from lectures by visiting researchers. Existing Erasmus+ partnership agreements enable financially these efforts. Likewise, Administrative staff shall be exposed to international partners, taking part in e.g. welcoming international delegations and may also be encouraged to use Erasmus+ funding to spend a short time abroad, for example through joining a staff week organized by an international partner or take part in job-shadowing opportunities for job-related development, if externally funded. Similarly, visiting administrative staff members from partner universities can be welcomed, e.g. in the framework of Erasmus+ training mobilities (job shadowing). This creates opportunities to exchange best practices, and re-think own practices and improving our work processes.

ESL recognizes the strategic importance of partnerships with both like-minded European and non-European institutions. Selected collaborations with non-European institutions shall contribute to strengthens existing academic relations but also support the recruitment of self-paying, non-European master's students into our international LL.M. programs. Here, initiatives as exchange-plus arrangements, and targeted training agreements can be taken as examples already in practice.

3. Strategic Priorities

To realize its vision, the Erasmus School of Law focuses on several strategic priorities that guide its internationalization efforts.

First, ESL aligns its partnership strategy with broader institutional goals by **prioritizing collaborations that contribute to research and education in the four thematic research clusters of Erasmus School of Law, which are closely linked to the five EUR impact domains**. This ensures coherence with the overarching strategies of Erasmus University Rotterdam and reinforces ESL's societal impact. **Erasmus School of Law actively engages globally with institutions that uphold the principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA), as well as the principles of Open and Responsible Science and acts according to the Erasmus University's policies on internationalisation**. These shared commitments ensure that internationalization contributes not only to academic excellence but also to ethical and socially responsible practices.



Second, **ESL recognizes the importance of staff development in internationalization**. It supports academic staff, including PhD candidates, in engaging with international partners through research collaboration, Erasmus+ funded mobility opportunities, and participation in international academic networks. To the extent available, also administrative staff with tasks related to internationalisation can make use of Erasmus+ funded mobility opportunities. Any such activities must contribute to both individual career development and institutional capacity building.

Third, taking into account the EUR strategy and guidelines on the influx of international students, ESL aims to **strengthen its position in the global education market** by actively promoting its existing LL.M. programs along its global competitors through internationally targeted marketing channels and internationally effective PR measures, but also through existing international networks. Relationship management with strategic partner institutions is key to increasing visibility and attracting high-quality, self-paying international students also to keep our school financially healthy.

Fourth, ESL is committed to developing and maintaining strategic partnerships that **generate a stable inflow of talented international LL.M. students**, thereby recognising the EUR strategy and guidelines on the influx of international students. These partnerships are carefully selected based on academic quality, strategic match, and long-term sustainability.

4. Key Actions and Implementation

Bring the ESL-Vision on Internationalisation to life

- In line with and to the extent that this contributes to the ESL strategy on internationalisation, ESL is open and welcoming to international delegations, visitors, staff and students because there is a shared understanding of the importance of internationalization while at the same time retaining balance with workload and financial stability.

Development International Partnership Portfolio

- ESL develops and manage a concrete pool of excellent global exchange partnerships that benefit students, academic staff and supports the school to remain academically attractive and at the same time financially stable.
- ESL observes Erasmian and Erasmus School of Law core values to evaluate existing partnerships and develop new partnerships if they serve our strategic goals.

Fostering International Research Partnerships and becoming attractive for international researchers

- ESL supports researchers in their quest to engage successfully in international collaborative research partnerships and networks.
- In line with and to the extent that this contributes to its ESL strategy on internationalisation, as well as its research and teaching profile, ESL encourages international research collaborations and visits of international guests in all departments and on all academic levels, and provides advice on the applicable European funding mechanisms to make these visits financially feasible.