

Erasmus Policy Statement

The educational project of ISG | Business & Economics School is based on objectives that go beyond the creation of quality higher education. In fact, each ISG action is conditioned by the idea that, through education, scientific research and training, it is possible to create values in the business landscape that, in the course of the process, will lead to a more just and developed society.

Considering that ISG is positioned as the management school of the Lusófona Group and is instituted by Ensinus - Estudos Superiores, S. A., it is possible to trace an evolution of this educational mission where cooperation between institutions stands out. This idea becomes more evident when analysing the ISG not as an isolated institution, but as a member of a group that, in addition to not being limited to Portugal or Europe, has similar schools in Brazil, Cape Verde, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. Therefore, internationalisation is embodied in all ISG's objectives and is not just one of the multiple projects developed.

Starting from the general to the particular, even though international cooperation orbits all ISG's projects, it is essential to define the strategies that involve the very concept of internationalisation and the way in which it is materialised.

Thus, the adoption of four methods that define the international strategy in the ISG is essential:

- Promote interinstitutional cooperation for teaching and research, both nationally and internationally;
- Support training in an international context, which should be extended equally to students, teachers and academic staff;
- Create the necessary academic structures that allow the integration of students, teachers and academic staff from other countries; and
- Encourage a more active participation in the programme by the countries considered bilaterally priority in the various developed projects.

These four essential methods for the international strategy of the ISG are possible in the field of cooperation, which in turn depends on the creation of interinstitutional agreements, fundamental to establish links between the various institutions that share academic interests with each other, regardless if it is destined for teaching or research.

Nevertheless, in addition to the academic field, ISG's ultimate goals include the training of citizens committed to developing social structures that allow a cohesive and just society. Certainly, there will be other variations on shared values, however, it is through joint work and cultural exchange that these principles become universal.

With an immersive activity teaching economic and business sciences, since 1978 ISG has established itself as a reference school in the Portuguese panorama, however, shared knowledge has no boundaries, especially within the Portuguese-speaking space.

Despite the assumed importance of cohesion within the Portuguese speaking world, ISG's international action is not limited to cooperation with Brazil, Cape Verde, Angola, Mozambique or Guinea-Bissau, but also has more than 10 years of mobility actions for students, teachers and academic staff within the European continent under the Erasmus + program.

In this sense, it cannot be ignored that Europe is a successful example of cooperation between nations that follow the same ethical, social, political principles and values that will sustain future generations. Considering these principles, ISG has always assumed the participation in the Erasmus + program as a key method to achieve the concertation of ideas on teaching and research and its multiple practical applications.

With the continued participation in the Erasmus + programme, ISG seeks to broaden the scope of educational action and to underline the rules that dictate the participation of students, teachers and other academic staff in international mobility actions across the European space, defining the recognition criteria, which aim to enhance career progression and academic appreciation, which translates, regardless of the context, into personal and professional enrichment.

Each mobility action, within the various strands (studies, internships, teaching, etc.), is managed by the International Relations Directorate (DRI), which, in conjunction with the ISG Directorate and the coordinators of the various courses, provides the establishment of partnerships with institutions that share the same academic standards, giving knowledge and constant search for sustainable results accessible to all participants.

Although DRI's work is not limited to the immersive mobility actions of Erasmus +, whether for studies or professional training, it is through this programme that most students seek to enhance the crystallisation of academic knowledge through an international experience. Although the international experience for national students is incredibly beneficial at all levels (personal, professional and academic), it is with bilateralism that ISG grows and creates structures that define it as a true institution without borders, even though it has its roots well defined.

Likewise, in order to fully highlight the concept of internationalisation, ISG has a long tradition of welcoming students and teachers from many countries spread across several continents. Although there is a very particular focus for the Portuguese-speaking African countries, either due to their linguistic proximity or historical background, ISG, through specific programs, welcomes professors and students from the United States of America and students from Brazil. Naturally, this cultural exchange allowed ISG to create an academic framework that supports the development of joint research projects with international partners and the creation of study programs with sufficient flexibility to welcome foreign students and teachers.

It is important to stress once again that ISG's universal character is simultaneously a method, an end and a platform that allows the ultimate goal of creating a society that expresses the notion of proximity between people, limiting academic asymmetries and creating networks of knowledge.

In addition to the expected mobility actions for studies, which end up involving teachers and students with complementary objectives, Erasmus + and any other mobility program also includes aspects of technical knowledge. These actions are aimed at academic staff, without whom all the administrative management of the processes would not be possible.

As a corollary of the ideas exposed in this document, it is important to underline that ISG has more than 40 years of experience in quality teaching and is the first Business School in Portugal. The purpose of maintaining the universal character of the ISG cannot be achieved without laying the foundations necessary for the emergence of a vast network of international partnerships, which is something ISG is able to achieve by integrating a group of educational

institutions present on three continents and by being involved in a myriad of mobility projects managed by various teams of people committed to creating the fundamental structures that make up ISG as a universal school in the field of economic and business sciences.

However, ISG is a tool that aims to influence the entire academic community, including international partners, to achieve the definitive purpose of creating a homeostatic society where ethical values, humanity and scientific development are transversal to any action.