Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Our Higher Education Institution (HEI), **IES Carlos María Rodríguez de Valcárcel (IFP Valcárcel),** is a public Vocational Education and Training school located in Madrid, Spain. We offer Higher Technician programmes (EQF Level 5) and Technician programmes in the fields of Media, Image and Sound.

The school is located in the district of **Moratalaz**, an area that experienced significant growth during the 1960s and 1970s as many working-class families settled there. Today, the district is home to a large elderly population as well as new families, most of whom belong to middle- and lower-middle-income backgrounds.

Our institution has always maintained a strong commitment to the local community. We regularly organise educational and cultural activities that benefit the **neighbourhood**, including theatre and dance events, promotional campaigns for community projects involving elderly residents, and support for emerging musicians through concerts and recordings produced in our facilities as part of our students' training activities.

At IFP Valcárcel, we are committed to a European-oriented education that connects learning with professional reality in international environments while fostering linguistic, social and cultural exchange.

We have held the **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) since 2011** and, since **2025,** we have also been awarded the **Erasmus Accreditation for Vocational Education and Training (VET-120).** These accreditations allow us to offer international mobility opportunities to both students and staff.

ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (ECHE)

By participating in the Erasmus Programme through the **ECHE**, our main objective is to strengthen our internationalisation strategy by increasing mobility opportunities, modernising our institution and improving our visibility within the local community, among vocational education providers and within the wider European educational landscape.

To achieve these goals, we focus on the following priorities:

1. Student mobility for traineeships

We aim to increase the number of outbound student mobilities for traineeships in companies located in Erasmus Programme countries (KA131-HED), allowing a greater number of students to benefit from scholarships and international work experience.

Our Higher Technician students can undertake traineeships in European companies for approximately three months. These placements provide valuable international experience, enhance professional skills and expose students to new ways of working within the audiovisual and creative industries.

This type of mobility has been a core activity since obtaining the ECHE. From an average of three mobilities per year, we have progressively increased participation to around four or five students annually, with the intention of continuing this growth in the coming years.

2. Staff mobility for training and teaching

Since 2022, our teaching staff have participated in training and job-shadowing mobilities in European vocational education institutions and schools linked to the audiovisual sector.

These experiences enrich our teaching methodologies, strengthen international partnerships and facilitate the exchange of good educational practices across Europe. We are also open to participating in teaching mobility periods within the Erasmus Programme.

ERASMUS ACCREDITATION FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET-120)

Following the award of our Erasmus VET Accreditation in 2025, we have begun organising group mobility projects under the VET121 action.

These projects bring together students from different European countries to collaborate on audiovisual productions and creative projects. They usually involve short-term physical mobilities of approximately five days, accompanied by teachers from the participating institutions.

These experiences allow students to live, create and work together in an international environment while developing professional, linguistic and intercultural competences.

INCOMING MOBILITIES

Our institution is also committed to hosting incoming mobilities. Since 2023, we have welcomed students and staff from European partner institutions for:

- Academic activities.
- Joint practical projects.
- Staff training and job-shadowing activities.

Should we decide to implement additional Erasmus activities in the future, we will inform the Spanish National Agency and update our Erasmus Policy Statement accordingly.

These actions support our broader strategy of internationalisation and modernisation. Through participation in Erasmus+, we aim to:

- Strengthen our institution's connection with European realities and create an educational environment that is open to Europe.
- Encourage students to participate in international mobility opportunities.
- Enable students and staff to apply their skills in new cultural and socio-economic contexts while improving their language and social competences.
- Develop long-term cooperation with European partners, institutions and companies with an international outlook.
- Provide greater access to international opportunities, particularly for students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.
- Improve students' understanding of European labour markets, emerging technologies and the social and economic realities of host countries.
- Ensure the recognition of ECTS credits and learning outcomes achieved through European programmes.
- Encourage entrepreneurship, initiative and professional development in international contexts.
- Enhance teachers' technical and professional competences through European mobility experiences.
- Foster a stronger European dimension among staff and reinforce cooperation between education and industry through partnerships with European companies and organisations.

The internationalisation of our institution is included in our **Annual General Programme**. A significant number of staff members are actively involved in achieving these objectives, including the management team, the Erasmus coordinator, the English department and the tutors responsible for student guidance.

Among our key partners is the Madrid City Council, particularly through the Directorate-General for Family, Education and Youth, which supports mobility initiatives through **the Xarxa FP European Mobility Network.** We are pleased to collaborate closely with Xarxa FP, a European public association with a presence in numerous cities across the European Union. Through this partnership, we maintain strong links with companies, educational institutions and organisations that facilitate mobility opportunities for both students and staff.

In addition, to expand our network of partners, we actively use social media and specialised platforms such as Erasmobility, ErasmusIntern and Erasmus+ Project Results.