**University of Sarajevo**

**Bosnian: Univerzitet u Sarajevu**

**Abbreviation: UNSA**

**Address: Obala Kulina bana 7/II, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Region: Western Balkan**

**Central International Relations office**

Vice-rector for international relations: Prof. Dr Enita Nakaš (Enita.nakas@unsa.ba)

Head of IRO: Dr. Jasna Bošnjović (jasna.bosnjovic@unsa.ba)

Senior officer: Adnan Rahimić, Msc (adnan.rahimic@unsa.ba)

**PIC: 995549995**

**Erasmus code: SARAJEVO**

**OID: E10186799**

**Erasmus+ status: Third countries not associated to the Programme**

**Erasmus+ mobilities: KA131 NO | KA171 YES**

**Official website:** [**http://www.unsa.ba**](http://www.unsa.ba)

**Web page for international relations:** [**http://www.international.unsa.ba/eng**](http://www.international.unsa.ba/eng)

**Mission and Vision**

Our mission is to strengthen the internationalization of the University of Sarajevo as a modern and unique European university. Our vision is reflected in strengthening leadership in the field of international cooperation. The University of Sarajevo has over 400 international agreements (bilateral or through program/project) with higher education institutions worldwide and membership in several major international organizations and networks. We expect to intensify global mobility to allow our students, faculty, and associates to demonstrate their qualities internationally and perfect themselves through such contacts.

**Facts & Figures (programs, faculties, departments, number of students and staff... )**

The University of Sarajevo (UNSA) was established in 1949. However, the first foundations of this higher education institution are given with the signing of Waqfname by Gazi Husrev Bey and founding the Gazi Husrev-bey's library back in the 16th century – today, our member institution. This public institution offers study and research opportunities at 22 Faculties, 3 Academies, 5 Institutes, 3 Centers, National and University Library, Gazi Husrevbey Library, National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Student Parliament, with over 200 study programs and over 200 departments. Today, having around 25,000 enrolled students, it ranks among the largest universities in the region. The UNSA actively participated (and still is) in EU funded programs since the 1990s (CARDS, PHARE, Pre-Tempus, Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus+, COST, Horizon2020). In the last Erasmus+ (2014-2021), we have implemented over 2200 incoming and outgoing mobilities with 200 higher education institutions within International Credit mobility. Out of 100 applications, 35 Capacity building projects were approved (three as coordinators)—additionally, one in strategic partnership action, two in Jean Monnet and two in Sports actions.

**Selection, support, recognition at the University of Sarajevo**

**Selection**: The University of Sarajevo is responsible for the selection process. We will respect the decisions or priorities of the host institution to make the choices regarding their criteria (i.e., the emphasis of specific study fields, preference of certain types of mobilities, etc.). Once the students and staff members have been nominated, the host institutions take over responsibility until the end of the mobility. The home institution takes care of the recognition process after the mobility. At the University of Sarajevo, all study fields are available for students from the partner institution. The list of courses entirely taught in English or provided in adaptive English will be inserted in the Inter-institutional agreement. Many study programs at UNSA offer the opportunity for international students to have private consultations if the classes are not provided in English. The professor can agree on lessons and exams for certain subjects through research, paperwork, mentorship, or other academic activity. At the UNSA, all calls are published online on the official websites and shared through different social media. UNSA introduced selection criteria: technical (all requested application documents are received as defined in the call); previous mobility experience (preference is always given to those candidates who didn’t apply or participated in the Erasmus+ mobility before; special conditions (selection committee takes into consideration requirements of the applicants – students/staff with special needs, Roma representatives, social and economic criteria, etc.); academic (students are ranked based on their average grade from previous years, including previous cycles). Respecting the selection criteria, the priority is always given to applicants who did not have the opportunity to use Erasmus+ grants before nor participated in other types of mobilities and those who come from the non-represented member institutions the University of Sarajevo in these programs. This way, the internationalisation of staff members and students are supported.

**Support**: the International Relations Office of the University of Sarajevo organises several informative days and a pre-departure orientation programme for outgoing students and staff. They are provided with needed academic and practical information and supported with needed documents and connections to help them start their mobility safely. The participants are informed about their obligations and rights before, during and after mobility. We provide Welcome day and orientation program activities and pre-arrival day (online) for incoming students to introduce them to needed academic and practical information (especially regarding visa and residence permit support). In cooperation with Erasmus Student Network, UNSA has established a Buddy network system to support the incoming students in all demands regarding their stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Staff support is given during their nomination to UNSA and immediately connected with their hosts, who continue communication and support.

**Recognition**: Recognition is done at the home units of the UNSA. During the preparation of the mobility application (Learning agreement), students fill in their documents in consultation with their home vice-deans/academic coordinators. This consultation helps them know at the beginning whether they chose good subjects and if the subjects will be recognised. The majority of students get their subjects recognised. Problems that might occur are because of the distinction between ECTS between home and host institution for the same subject, or the title of the subject is the same, but the curricula are not, or students cannot find subjects that correspond to their home subjects, so they choose subjects to “expand” their knowledge on similar topics(s). Recognition is done differently at the UNSA units; sometimes, it is a teaching board and sometimes depends on the individual professor for the titled subject. The UNSA constantly works on improving the recognition process favouring the student supporting the international mobility and internationalisation process. All staff mobilities are approved and endorsed by the deans of the units concerned. So far, the UNSA does not have any recognition mechanism of staff mobility yet. The overall value of mobility is to gain international experience and network for future collaboration. The participating staff shares the experience of different platforms, meetings, and seminars organised to promote Erasmus+ mobility.

**Participation of those with fewer opportunities**

The UNSA respects the principles of the Erasmus+ program, taking into account ensuring that every student and staff member gets the opportunity to use the Erasmus+ mobility. All students or staff members who are identified as people with fewer opportunities (for any economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, migrant background, or disability or educational difficulties or for any other reason, including a reason that could give rise to discrimination) are under special supervision of the International Relations Office to provide them the best opportunities within Erasmus+. However, many do not want to identify themselves within those categories. Once the application is received, unless it is directly specified or apparent, we can only provide them with a fair chance and results from their documents. Also, based on the provided numbers of scholarships and interested students and having 200 partner universities, we didn’t have problems sending all students who applied.

**Internationalisation Strategy**

According to the adopted Internationalization strategy 2018/19-2022/23, the presence of international students and staff members at the University of Sarajevo means that we are more encouraged to create more English subjects and open complete study programs taught in English. Also, starting the joint ventures degree programs is one of the options. As the country that will be a potential candidate and member of the European Union, it is essential to be more included in the European Higher Education Area. This program and our collaboration will influence better networking and bring closer EU and non-EU higher education society.

The UNSA is very active in international mobility. Aside from different mobility programs (CEEPUS, Mevlana, Visegrad FUND, DAAD, bilateral, free movers, CMEPIUS), the most popular is Erasmus+ (with its predecessor Erasmus Mundus). UNSA participated in all 19 Erasmus Mundus - approved projects for the Western Balkans. Within Erasmus+ from 2014 and signing the inter-institutional agreement with the international HEIs, we could exchange many students and staff members, contributing to the qualitative mobility and internationalization processes.

Since 2014, UNSA has signed inter-institutional agreements with over 200 higher education institutions from the Programme countries. We have supported and implemented throughout 2200 incoming and outgoing mobilities. Within Erasmus+, we had reached some areas of Europe that didn't have a previous connection before (i.e., Nordic and Baltic countries, Eastern Europe, Portugal). We have also started several projects within other actions of Erasmus+ (capacity building, Jean Monnet, Strategic partnership, Sport, etc.).

The UNSA works on strengthening the internationalization process and enhancing the ability to become a modern, prosperous, recognizable, and socially responsible institution driving social development. This process must be designed appropriately to follow developments in the socio-economic, technical, and technological environment - both locally and globally. In this sense, it is necessary to reflect on society's expectations, that is, the mission of the university in the era of globalization and the fourth industrial revolution.

We are institutionalizing the "internationalization process" at UNSA. The focus is on solid development to create an attractive, stimulating, creative, and inclusive environment for learning, advancing, researching, and sharing ideas and knowledge through:

1. Strengthening the capacity of organizational units, teachers, administration, and students to design and implement the internationalization process (internal reorganization - horizontal integration of human resources, strengthening the ability to improve the level of internationalization of the teaching process - pedagogical support, planned budget, documents, - presenting experiences/training, internationalization team)
2. Internationalization at home (working on the offer of modern study programs in English) and creating an international environment at home
3. Visibility and networking (internal promotion, promotion abroad, etc., IT support - a common portal for organizing events, all magazines, and their digitization and establishing a team for improving the quality of journals or their indexing, academic meetings)

**Impact**

**Impact on the participant (individual):** Gaining international experience and being an ambassador of the University of Sarajevo abroad helps promote our institution and internationalization strategy. Students become international, their CV is enriched with new experiences, their knowledge of the foreign language(s) is improved, and they become a competitive workforce after graduating. Staff members gain international experience and participate in active professional development. It increases satisfaction with the work environment and constant improvement.

**Impact on your university (institutional level):** It is here where academic mobility, student's and staff exchange between the University of Sarajevo and partner universities in the EU can contribute, learn know-how and know-who, and implement well-recognized activities into the everyday work at the University of Sarajevo. Our university contributes to the internationalization strategy and position in the European higher education area by participating in these programs.

**Impact at local, regional and national levels:** The University of Sarajevo is the country's leading university and one of the leading in the regions. Within its status, it helps analyze the level of harmonization between the curricula and the needs of the labour market. This includes employer surveys, businesses, chambers of commerce, and other business associations, taking into account the current trends in the local and European business environment and the European Higher Education Area in general. Participation in exchange programs improves a better understanding of those trends and their successful implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Dissemination**

For better promotion, IRO has published several publications about mobility projects, documents preparation, and application instructions to ease the process for students and staff members. We consider being very active in promoting our institution through informative days, fairs, promotional materials, e-newsletters and news. We often invite Erasmus+ alumni to share their testimonials during the season of open calls, which helps in increasing awareness of the international exchange. Our officers are active members in many regional and international organisations supporting and promoting Erasmus+ (i.e. Western Balkans Alumni Association). Although the University of Sarajevo has its central International Relations Office, every member institution has its International Relations contact point (vice-dean, coordinator or contact person for international relations) for further dissemination. We are the proud organiser of several events that contribute to the internationalisation@home processes, such as the Scholarship fair (intended for the whole Bosnia and Herzegovina area focused on raising the awareness of scholarships and promoting mobility programs) and International Staff Training Week (the designed program with a focus on the processes of internationalisation includes social and cultural activities attended by international staff). We didn't stop these activities during the pandemic, so many of our events (like staff week, info days, even Scholarship fair) were implemented online.