

**The Graduate School for Social Research/
Szkoła Nauk Społecznych**

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ERASMUS Policy Statement

MISSION

Postgraduate education to the highest European standards as preparation for careers in a multicultural environment.

STRATEGY

Doctoral students too often experience a narrowing of horizons, focusing almost exclusively on their research topic. We seek to broaden student's horizons to help them gain new perspectives on their work. Even those who will go on to academic careers are unlikely to be able to restrict future professional activities to the field of their original doctoral research.

All programmes offered at GSSR therefore are interdisciplinary within the social sciences. Clearly within such studies an environment which encourages comparative study of different societies is highly desirable.

Although a small school we aim to provide an ever more international educational experience. Some 40% of our students in 2005-6 were non-Poles. Teaching staff are recruited from both within and outside Poland and the latter account for half the staff on some programmes.

For this reason many courses are offered in English, others either in English or Polish according to student demand, with the remaining minority of courses in Polish only.

Doctoral students are encouraged to take part in other research projects (including FP6/7 projects) with academic staff, thereby gaining additional, skills contacts and experience. Staff/student mobility enhances this effect and widens horizons.

Our objective therefore is to upgrade already existing mobility of PhD students and academic staff. Within this objective our priority is to promote balanced exchange of academic staff and students.

VISIBILITY OF ERASMUS ACTIVITIES

The Erasmus Charter and EPS will be available on the School's web page. Information will also be available in printed materials. Students and academic staff will be informed about activities within the Erasmus programme both by written materials and information meetings.

SOCIAL ISSUES

The School has a policy of widening access to its programmes. To this end courses are offered outside working hours over an extended period to allow study without interruption of professional careers.

The international character of the school and the nature of its programmes is itself a clear rejection of xenophobia and racism. Courses (eg 'The Holocaust and its Cultural Meaning', 'Women-New tendencies in theory and social-legal practice') exist in which such issues are investigated within the perspectives of the social sciences.

Elected student representatives participate in governance of the School at weekly meetings. Our students, many of whom come from countries where civil society is still developing, appreciate our strong emphasis on the transparency of administrative procedures, and of assessment of student work with published procedures, marking criteria, appeals procedures etc. Definitions of, and procedures for dealing with, anti-social/discriminatory behaviour are published. A notice about the School's non-discrimination policy appears on recruitment materials.

All students at GSSR are offered courses to improve English/Polish language skills. It is a requirement for award of the PhD degree that the student speak at least one foreign language, and students are expected to be actively improving their foreign language skills. This along with compatibility of academic interests will therefore be an element in selection of candidates for outward mobility.

Our experience to date is with free movers and organization of intensive programmes only. Mobility and recognition of mobility will be based on institutional agreements and must include briefing/counselling of outgoing and returning students.

We will continue to seek additional (non-Erasmus) funding for participants in mobility.

All programmes consist of a number of modules. Students chose modules and accumulate credits towards completion of their programme. Credits gained by

taking courses taken at other institutions count towards the total number of credits required to complete the doctoral programme. Full transcripts of completed courses are available.

ECTS is already in partial use; an overhauled credit system will allow full ECTS compatibility in all programmes in 2007-8.

An international advisory board and regular evaluations by independent outside bodies help to assure the quality of the School's teaching activities.

Comprehensive programme handbooks, syllabuses etc are available online in English and Polish at <http://info.css.edu.pl> The School is sufficiently small to be able to provide personal service in matters of recognition with documentation tailored to individual needs.

Integration- All students are assigned individual tutors/supervisors and foreign students have their own elected representative.

Accommodation – A member of the Admissions staff is designated to help students find accommodation in apartments in the city, or in university halls of residence.

Academic staff mobility is acknowledged in annual institutional activity reports.