

Erasmus+ Policy Statement

Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology is a unique academic centre, where Eastern and Western technologies and scientific thought meet and merge to produce new solutions in the area of computer science.

The quality of education, innovative research and development attained through international exchange are the core values included in the mission of the Academy, whose intercultural standards are embedded in its name. The dynamically growing PJATK community is expressing the will to further develop in the spirit of tolerance and openness. Our main goal is limitless cooperation beyond disciplinary, regional and social boundaries. In its offer, the Academy integrates and is willing to cultivate specializations of the future, combining both arts and science as well as focusing on high quality, with a wide range of foreign language courses and advanced cultural studies (Art, The Culture of Japan).

Both the values represented by the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and the European Union development goals embodied in the act are fully consistent with the aims set by PJATK and independently evolving within its dynamic community.

PJAIT strives to:

- Train specialists who will be able to work creatively in different areas of computer science in the international business context
- Conduct research into the development and design of new information technologies for practical applications
- Establish cooperation with similar academic centres in Europe and the world in order to exchange research and educational experience.
- Promote scientific and artistic achievements of European Higher Education Institutions in Japan and introduce Japanese culture and IT technology to our EU partners.

Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology can be characterised by the systematic review of curriculum and syllabuses and adjusting these to the needs and trends in the European job market, as well as to the scientific and technological advancements in computer science.

Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology supports professional development of its academic staff and internalisation and modernisation of its structure applying the following actions:

- promoting exchange and staff mobility within the EU and other non-participating countries
- adopting new teaching methods on the basis of experience gained due to staff mobility (both incoming and outgoing)
- supporting international research among others by encouraging projects that involve cooperation with partner institutions
- searching for new partners for study and staff mobility as well as for other projects developed under the EU Programmes with the main focus on the EU and Japan but including other geographical regions as well.

The Academy is constantly developing the net of its international partnerships in the fields of education, research and business. The selection of partners is based upon thorough analysis of the expected sustainable and balanced benefits for all parties involved in the partnership. All the decisions about establishing new cooperation are made on the central level of the Institute. The detailed survey of the partner institutions' character and quality of their curricula is held before entering into full cooperation.

PJAiT is the member of Cumulus Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media, which is the only global association to serve art and design education and research. Participation in the organization gives a great opportunity for new partnerships with renown universities.

PJAiT also actively promotes students' mobility by:

- Establishment of an undergraduate programme for IT, Information Management and Art studies taught exclusively in English. This programme is suitable for incoming students from partner universities. It ensures better integration of Polish and foreign students.
- Providing good support for the programme taught in English by stocking the library with the latest publications to be used by English-speaking students.
- Promotion of language education. Courses of English are obligatory for all students, courses of French, German, Spanish and Japanese are offered as electives.
- Students going to non-English speaking countries are provided with self-study materials to enhance their language knowledge.
- PJAiT is the Official Examinations Centre for LCCI and is a unique examination center in Poland for Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

- Promotion of Japanese language and culture. The aim is not only education in the target language but sensitizing students to other cultures, lifestyles, customs and beliefs, thus fighting discrimination and prejudice.
- Recognition of study and mobility period abroad.
- Establishment of the ECTS system.
- Comprehensive administrative support for incoming and outgoing students.
- Advisory service for incoming and outgoing students on academic matters.
- Arranging the mentoring system which involves Polish students acting as mentors to their incoming European (and non-European) colleagues.
- Making the school facilities easily accessible for the disabled.
- Offering undergraduate study programs conducted in English also through the Internet (e-studies).
- Promoting Erasmus+ activities by current and past participants, for example by providing website space for blogs, photologs, opinion exchange forum, inviting them to meetings with other students etc.
- Promoting mobility activities during Open Days.

The authorities of the Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology pay special attention to ensure high quality of activities related to academic mobility implemented under the mobility projects. That involves particularly:

1. The preparation and continuing revision of the general curriculum and the ECTS catalogue to ensure the best and most up-to-date academic offer.
2. Constant monitoring of the quality of tuition.
3. Assistance offered to incoming students and academic staff in finding accommodation and other issues.
4. Provision of local mentors to help arrange study and leisure.
5. Monitoring of the levels of satisfaction and performance of participants in the mobility programmes, both incoming and outgoing.
6. High quality language education.
7. Careful selection procedures to ensure that outgoing students and staff meet the highest academic standards of achievement.
8. Providing distance learning opportunities for students who cannot attend regular classes.
9. Special arrangements and facilities for students with impaired mobility.
10. Launching new Faculties and/or modes of studies held in English language.

PJAIT attempts to provide education opportunities to a wider group of society. It offers a few alternative modes of studies (daily regular studies, part-time including on-line mode).

For working students there are many post-graduate courses launched. To update the knowledge and skills required by the current job market, we offer courses oriented on getting particular professional skills. The above courses are tailored to the needs of people, who are already involved in professional activities but want to upgrade their qualifications. In order to achieve the goals of enhancing modernization and internalization of the Institute as well as of improving education quality and innovation of teaching approaches, PJAIT carries out many projects (including research projects) supported by the EU Programmes.

Under the projects, the Academy managed, among others, to:

- establish new Master degree specialisations that involved cooperation with employers and combine academic knowledge with practical business approach.
- develop PJAIT Career Office,
- organize annual Job Fairs;
- organize trainings for academic staff, students and graduates;
- organize paid placements, and it has undertaken many other activities.

In recent years, the Academy has focused on strengthening its cooperation with the business sector. Introduction of innovative projects (also under the EU Programmes) involving business partners proved highly beneficial for PJAIT students in many aspects:

- participation in attractive work placement programmes;
- support in development of entrepreneurship. A special Technology Incubator created at PJAIT helps the students to establish their own companies, to undertake freelance business activities and cope with accounting and legal issues;
- help in adjusting to the requirement of the modern market by encouraging lifelong learning and acquiring new qualifications;
- help in recognizing a suitable career path for graduates.

As a result of implementing our policy we expect our graduates to obtain skills allowing

them to integrate with any EU working team, providing creative input to any project, the same time having understanding of other cultures and other value systems.

In addition, the Institute has developed the Quality Management System that is based on the national qualification framework and supports assurance of the Institute's effectiveness at all Faculties.

The Institute's strategy for the next years assumes more activities to enhance competence and creativity of academic teachers and researchers as well as to modernize curricula and teaching methods. Another important aim in the strategy is the increase of the attractiveness of the institution for international candidates and partners. The Academy also plans further development in effectively combining education with business and research by implementing new projects available under the EU Programmes.