



European Graduate Placement Scheme: An Education Partnership Developing Global Translation Graduates

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Abstract

The European Graduate Placement Scheme (EGPS) is funded by the Erasmus strand of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. The scheme started on 1 October 2012 and will end in March 2015. It sets out to establish a European framework for work placements for postgraduate students in translation companies, facilitating exchanges between universities and companies in a range of European member states.

It aims to:

- To enhance European cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprise
- To stimulate mobility of students and staff in higher education
- To increase the employability of graduates and postgraduates studying translation
- To build on existing collaborations between employers, HEIs and related translator training projects e.g. Optimale

The scheme sets out to develop more partnerships between higher education & employers, providing Masters students with experience of a commercial translation environment and real-life professional situations in another EU member state and increasing their mobility prospects.

Partners from different European countries share good practice in work placements to create a model for European work placements. Our European partnership also aims to develop a form of accreditation for work placements linked to a core set of Standards benchmarking translator competence. The Standards are supported by employers, introducing an innovative element of employer engagement in the curriculum. At the end of project, there will be a range of curriculum models available that will enable European universities to embed practical work placements within a translation course, enabling postgraduate students of translation to gain real life experience of the profession before completing their studies.

It benefits students by providing them with access to a much wider range of placement opportunities across Europe, eligible for Erasmus funding. It will give them experience of an actual translation-related environment, where they might be asked to perform or support a range of translation- or business-related tasks. Institutions will be able to offer their students a wider range of placement opportunities across Europe. Employers can benefit from the scheme by accessing Masters level translation students with a range of native language competence and language pairs,

The scheme will provide a range of tailored guidance and support materials for employers, students and higher education institutions who are participating or want to participate in placements.

The project partners are:

- Skills CfA, the UK standard setting body for languages, translation, interpreting and intercultural skills
- University of Salford, UK
- Pedagogical University of Cracow, Poland
- Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
- Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany

This presentation describes the cooperative model which the partners have used to create a European framework for graduate placements, how the model is being tested and how the model may be used on a wider scale by translation training institutions working with employers. It reviews the importance of work experience in undergraduate and postgraduate education in the current international labour



market. It also provides information on how to get involved with the scheme and get in contact with the project partners to explore cooperation opportunities.