



**Debreceni Református  
Hittudományi Egyetem  
Debrecen Reformed Theological  
University**



**ERASMUS PROGRAM**

H- 4044 Debrecen, Kálvin tér 16. I/42, Hungary  
Tel: + 36 52 516-833, Fax: + 36 52 516-822  
E-mail: [gondal@drhe.drk.hu](mailto:gondal@drhe.drk.hu) \* [www.drhe.hu](http://www.drhe.hu)  
HU DEBRECE04 • 224484-IC-1-2007-1-HU-ERASMUS-EUC-1

---

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Debrecen University of Reformed Theology is an academic training institute of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The University is a part of the Debrecen Reformed College: an educational centre founded in 1538 in order to train Reformed ministers and Protestant intelligentsia. The DRHE is the only Protestant theological training institute in Hungary which has uninterruptedly been functioning since the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. Our University has always functioned in the context of the European academic world: since the 16th century our alumni attended Western European universities regularly (peregrinatio), through which an intense interaction was created between Debrecen and universities all over Europe, e.g. in Germany (Wittenberg, Heidelberg), the Netherlands (Franeker, Groningen, Utrecht, Kampen), England (Oxford) and Scotland (Edinburgh). The Debrecen Reformed College Library, the largest ecclesial collection in Hungary consisting of more than 600 000 volumes, bears multiple evidence of this connections through the centuries.

Our institute was one of the founder of the University of Debrecen (1912) and functioned as one of its faculties until 1951, when the Communist authorities excluded the Reformed Theological Faculty from the University. Between 1951 and 1996 our institute functioned as an independent Reformed Theological Academy, under strict limitations. After 1990 the DRHE is restored to a fully accredited university with five undergraduate and four postgraduate programs, including a Doctor Philosophiae (PhD) Program. These programs are the following:

Undergraduate programs:

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education  
Master of Theology  
Master of Divinity  
Master of Arts in Christian Education

## Postgraduate Programs

Master of Arts in Pastoral Counselling and Management (under accreditation)

Doctor of Philosophy in Reformed Theology

The postgraduate programs are taught with an European outlook: courses of guest lecturers from other European countries (Germany, The Netherlands) are an integral part of the curricula of these programs.

The University hosts seven Research Institutes of diverse theological disciplines. These institutes intend to work in an international context paying special attention to the European dimension of their fields of research (e.g. Church History, Liturgics etc.)

The University has a Department of Modern Languages, where English, German, French and Russian languages are taught in order to equip students with language tools for their future career, so that they can do further studies and/or practice their profession in an international context, too. Native speakers are involved in the teaching of languages, too.

## **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF ERASMUS MOBILITY**

### **According to the ERASMUS UNIVERSITY CHARTER**

No. 224484-IC-1-2007-1-HU-ERASMUS-EUC-1

**The Debrecen Reformed Theological University has agreed to comply with the following fundamental principles of Erasmus mobility:**

- Mobility shall be carried out only within prior inter-institutional agreements;
- No university fees for tuition, registration, examinations, access to laboratory and library facilities are to be charged to in-coming Erasmus students
- Full recognition must be given to students for satisfactorily completed activities specified in the compulsory *Learning Agreement*.

### **The Debrecen Reformed Theological University has also agreed:**

- to ensure the highest quality in the organisation of student and staff mobility
- to ensure that curriculum information is up to date, easily accessible and transparent and that an academic credit transfer system (ECTS or similar) gives transparency to the procedures
- to ensure equal academic treatment and services to home and Erasmus students
- to support the integration of visiting Erasmus students in the Institution's activities
- to provide incoming Erasmus students and their home institutions with transcripts containing full, and accurate and timely information at the end of their mobility period abroad
- to ensure the highest quality in the organisation of student placements
- to facilitate and acknowledge Erasmus teaching activities
- to promote and give visibility to the activities supported by the Erasmus programme
- to publicise this Charter and the related Erasmus Policy Statement of the Institution
- to comply with the objectives on non discrimination set out in the Lifelong Learning Programme.

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2007**

In 2004, the Debrecen Reformed Theological University (DRTU) submitted an application to the Commission of the European Union to grant a Erasmus University Charter to our institution. The DRTU participates in the Socrates/Erasmus Program since the academic year of 2005/2006.

The DRTU has already got vivid relationships in the framework of the Erasmus Program to Universities in Austria, Germany and Rumania. According to the strategy of international networking of the DRTU the extension of the Erasmus Program is intended towards the Netherlands and towards Great-Britain in order to offer our students more chance to attend English-language courses of high quality, abroad. It is also planned to find partner(s) in France. Plans are made to integrate international students placements (internships) into the Erasmus-strategy. The possibility to participate in an Intensive Program is also being explored. It is our goal to make our institute more attractive for incoming students and therefore the number of courses offered in foreign languages (English, German, Dutch) are planned to be raised in the period of 2007-2013.

b) The DRTU has set up an Erasmus Information Point at the University (Room No. I/42), where actual information about Erasmus activities is available for all students and staff. A computer work station with continuous internet access is at the disposal of the students and staff exclusively for Erasmus purposes. Actual information on the Erasmus

Program is available on an “Erasmus Billboard” on a frequented spot of the University facilities. Application forms can be downloaded from the university website. The leadership of University publicly supports the Erasmus Program and emphasizes its value in public speeches and addresses. The Erasmus Program is frequently discussed at the sessions of the University Senate. An Erasmus Website is to be launched during the spring semester of the 2006/2007 academic year. The Erasmus University Charter and the Erasmus Policy Statement will be published on the opening page of the DRTU website. An Erasmus Evening is also planned to recruit new students for the program. The University follows a non-discrimination and anti-racism policy concerning students and staff, according to the Constitutions of the Reformed Church in Hungary, in accordance with the guidelines accepted by the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (Debrecen, 1997.) A social support system (including special foundations) is functioning to enhance the social cohesion of the economically underprivileged students. Anti-racism is an integral part of the pedagogical program of the University, and special attention is paid to the issue of the integration of the Roma minority. The issue of minority rights as an integral part of social justice is discussed in the framework of our programs. Approx. 50 % of the students are female and gender equality is guaranteed at all levels of the university life.

#### Quality of academic mobility activities:

The high quality of academic mobility activities is guaranteed by a well-regulated selection system of candidates. Students must meet high academic requirements in order to acquire an Erasmus scholarship and they must hold a Letter of Recommendation by one of the faculty members. Every applicant is interviewed by a committee of teachers and students in the language of the receiving institution. Credit points accumulated at an Erasmus partner university are fully accepted according to the guidelines of the European Credit Transfer System. A Credit Transfer Committee of the University guarantees the total acceptance of credit points. Information on the curriculum is published on the website of the University both in Hungarian and in English languages. The institutional Erasmus-coordinator offers personal accompaniment for outgoing and incoming Erasmus students. A student mentor system is being built up for assisting incoming students. The institutional Erasmus coordinator provides information and advising for outgoing staff, too. The teaching staff is encouraged by the Senate and by the Rector of the University to participate in the Erasmus program and this is recognized as a valuable academic achievement. Incoming students have a possibility of attending the Summer Courses on Hungarian as a Foreign Language of the Debrecen University. The University offers accommodation for incoming students at its own facilities and it arranges accommodation for the incoming teachers/staff. Information on the city of Debrecen and on the history and context of the University is provided, too.

#### Quality of student placements

The Debrecen Reformed Theological University sees the possibility of international student placements as an enrichment of its training program and a means to raise the quality of the training program by providing it with an international outlook. By organizing the student placements the DRTU builds on the existing networks provided by international ecclesial bodies. The system of student placement programs is being developed and a full recognition of the internships/practica in a foreign country is planned, thus the placements will be integrated to the training program of offered by the DRTU. The University has a team of academic staff entrusted by the development, monitoring and evaluation of internships and student placements.