

----- Mensaje original -----

Asunto:BILATERAL AGREEMENT with Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts - School of Engineering and Architecture

Fecha:Sat, 8 Mar 2014 09:55:17 +0000

De:Schulz Uwe W. HSLU T&A <uwe.schulz@hslu.ch>

Para:Schulz Uwe W. HSLU T&A <uwe.schulz@hslu.ch>

CC:Sommer Sandra HSLU T&A <sandra.sommer@hslu.ch>

Dear Partner

With the launch of the Erasmus+ programme, we recently have agreed again on an exchange of students between our institutions. I was very happy about these results for the benefit of our respective students. However, you may have become aware of the unfortunate decision by the EU Commission that the basis of our arrangements have changed.

On Wednesday 26th of February 2014, the European Commission has communicated that "Switzerland will not participate in Erasmus+ on an equal footing with Member States (i.e. as a "Programme Country") as initially envisaged, but will rather enjoy the same status as other third countries (i.e. as a "Partner Country)". http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm

In other words, our respective students may continue to spend exchange semesters at the other institution, as to be stipulated in a Bilateral Agreement, but students shall not receive any grants from the Erasmus+ programme.

While the Swiss government's objective remains to become again a "Programme Country" in the near future, they are working on an interim solution that will enable Switzerland to become an associate member of the Erasmus+ Programme, similar to its status prior to 2011. In this case, the Swiss government would cover the Erasmus grant for outgoing students as well as for incoming students to Swiss Universities. As these arrangements are currently being worked out, we ask for your patience and understanding in the meantime. As soon as more details become available, we will gladly provide such updates.

We very much value our partnership with your institution and we would like to assure you that we will welcome your students for the upcoming semester as warmly and actively as ever. Equally, we would very much appreciate being able to keep sending our students to your institution.

The easiest way to establish the required new bilateral agreement, is to take-off the Erasmus+ label of your existing document or alternatively sign a new Bilateral Agreement as enclosed, keeping the numbers of exchange students unchanged. If you'd indicate your preference to me, I'd be happy to prepare the documents accordingly – avoiding any more inconveniences to you.

As time is moving fast towards the deadlines for the fall semester 2014, we would appreciate your efforts to encourage your students to stick with their plans to come to Lucerne and we look forward to receiving your nominations as usual, while getting the new Bilateral Agreements signed.

Thank you very much for your understanding. Kindest regards... Uwe

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
School of Engineering and Architecture

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