IES La Albuera has always taken part in institutional programmes which facilitate the cultural exchange between our students and students from other countries, on the basis that knowledge and learning cannot be promoted ignoring cultural differences or doing without neighbouring countries’ achievements. Moreover, we are known to feature, as one of our main priorities, the aim to encourage our students to know new cultures and experience different ways of living, by studying and working.

As well as participating in several European projects in the framework of SOCRATES programmes (COMENIUS and LINGUA), as a secondary school, we have a French-Spanish bilingual programme for secondary students, who study part of their curriculum and take their university entry exam in both languages, which has proved to be a very successful and profitable experience.

We are also due to start up a new extension programme in English next year, which may expand the objectives of the average secondary curriculum concerning this language within the Spanish educational system.

Furthermore, the opportunity of studying German in addition to French and English as a part of our secondary students’ syllabus singles us out for our involvement in teaching European languages.

As far as our higher level students are concerned, we are aware that their learning of foreign languages is essential and the ability to move around in a European context is known to be absolutely necessary nowadays for the vocational studies we offer (including Physical and Sport training, Industrial Manufacture Maintenance and Automotive studies). Consequently, we are bound to provide them with the strategies which may improve their command of other European languages.

Our short cycle students are to fulfill their training following compulsory placement and work-programmes as a part of their curricula in vocational studies. This represents 20% of their cycle and a requirement to prove the necessary competence to achieve the expected recognition as technical experts. They increasingly choose other European countries for their training placement. Thus, they are generally encouraged to select the geographical areas where they will be able to practise English, French or German, which are the foreign languages taught at our school. Likewise, we choose our partners in cooperation projects on the same basis.
Students from other European secondary schools also have the possibility of following their placement here. We already have experience in placing foreign students in different academic levels. Consequently, our staff are aware of the special support required by students from abroad. A clear placement description will be provided by the department placing the student, and a place to train in the same conditions as the rest of our students is guaranteed.

Our placement agreements are subject to the following conditions:

- All the activities are implemented according to prior planning.
- Training consists of the performance of productive activities suitable for a specific professional outline.
- It is carried out in a real productive context: the enterprise.
- There are two people in charge of monitoring, evaluating and advising students in their learning process: a teaching tutor who is a member of the school staff and an enterprise consultant who oversees their work at placements.
- Training does never imply a labour situation and the enterprise is not allowed to fill a vacancy with a training student.
- Necessary liability insurance coverage, as required by Spanish law, will be provided.

The agreement contract is signed by the school principal and the involved enterprise in the framework of the Cooperation Agreements between the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture and the Superior Council of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

All in all, our objectives for Erasmus activities are:

- We intend to develop multilateral staff exchange.
- We are willing to organise students’ exchanges in the frame of bilateral agreements.
- We plan to participate in multilateral projects aiming at facilitating the cooperation with enterprises as well as projects connected to e-learning.
- We would like to promote mobility as part of a wider employability strategy.
We share the following priorities stated by the European Commission in its 2011 Modernisation Agenda:

* The necessity to attract a broader cross-section of society into higher education by making it more practical and attractive.
* The necessity to improve the quality and relevance of higher education.
* The aim of strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation.
* The objective of linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.

The Erasmus University Charter, our Erasmus Policy Statement together with student experiences will be widely publicised both in prospectuses, student handbooks and on the web.

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all the members of our staff and students. All of them are protected from all forms of offensive behaviour, and we guarantee a working and learning environment free from inequality, abuse or aggression in any form.

On the other hand, our institution facilitates and acknowledges our staff mobility providing them with the necessary education and training in European languages. As a bilingual school with a successful French and Spanish programme, members of our staff are chosen preferentially to participate in intensive courses and other multicultural projects aiming at improving their management in language teaching skills.

Our school teachers are encouraged to take part in refresher language courses organized by the Provincial Teacher Training Centre; some of them have also been granted to participate abroad in summer courses organized by our Regional Government.

Finally, our higher education students are also given preference to enrol the State School of Language courses.

All these facilities, together with our recognition for every effort made to help our students achieve a multicultural education, guarantee the best conditions for our student and staff mobility.