

# STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN THE INTERNATIONALIZATION IN THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY AND FOOD SCIENCES

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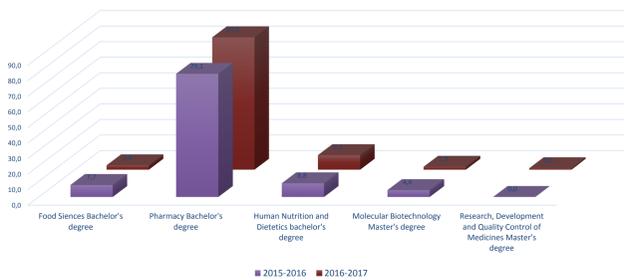
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## INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences offers the students of its three degrees, Pharmacy, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, and Food Sciences and Technology the possibility of internships in foreign universities. One of the main commitments of the Faculty is to meet the growing demand of the students to spend a period abroad. In this framework, the coordinator along with the other academics and administrative staff, considers the stay in other universities part of the improvement in the comprehensive academic formation of the students. Therefore, a considerable effort is constantly done in order to prepare an internationalization program that satisfy the students and fulfil the academic necessities to prepare professionals that can undertake their professional future. Herein we present the outcomes and impacts of the international mobility program in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years. Two main aspects are considered: a) the students that go abroad to conduct their studies in the framework agreement with other university or within the ERASMUS+ program; b) the foreign students that come to the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences to stay for a short-period

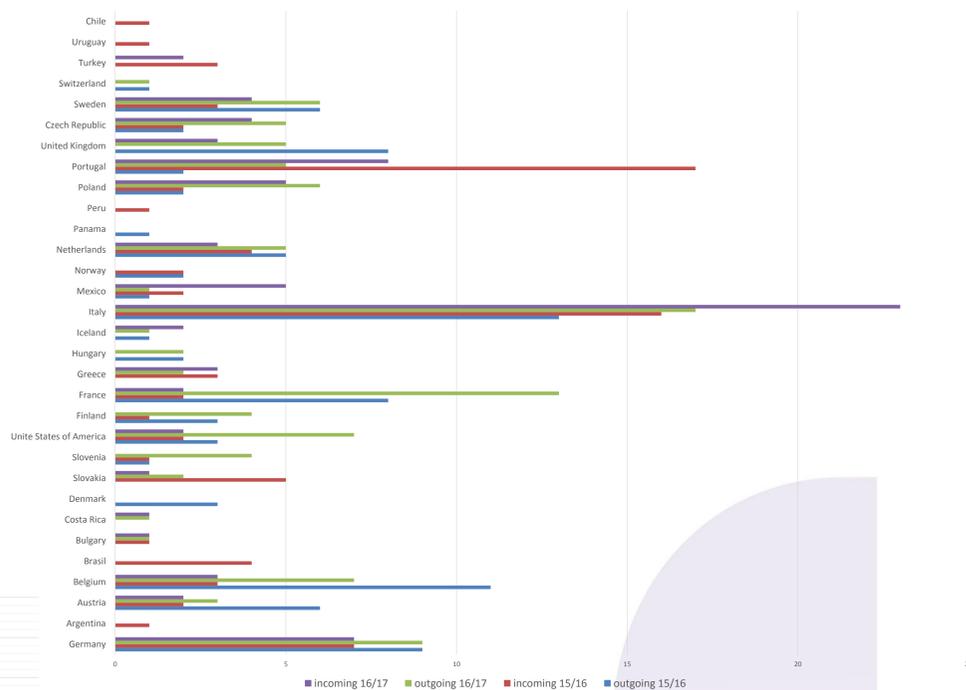
## STATISTICAL STUDY FOR THE ACADEMIC YEARS 2015-2016 AND 2016-2017

% Students according to the University degrees



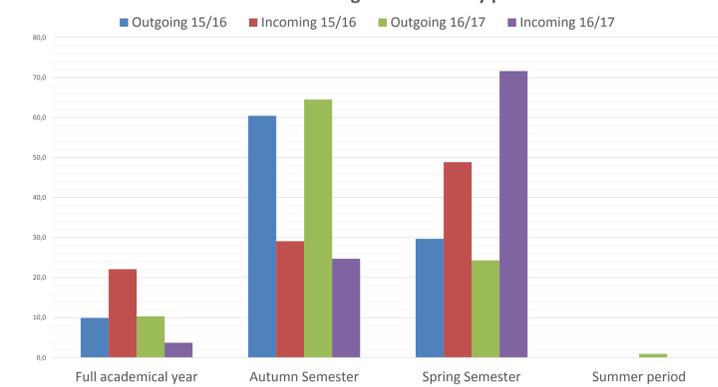
Most of students of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences, who have done an international mobility are from the Pharmacy Bachelor's degree because both is consolidated and the number of students is higher than the other degrees. Regarding the Master's degrees the assessment of the mobility is very difficult because of counting for only 60 ECTS Master and the management is very complicate.

No of students according to the Countries



According to the countries, it is observed that the most requested countries for outgoing students are Italy, Belgium, Germany, France and United Kingdom; whereas the incoming students come mainly from Italy and Portugal

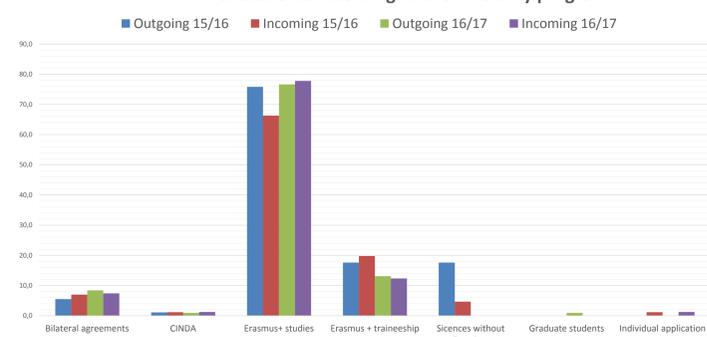
% Students according to the mobility period



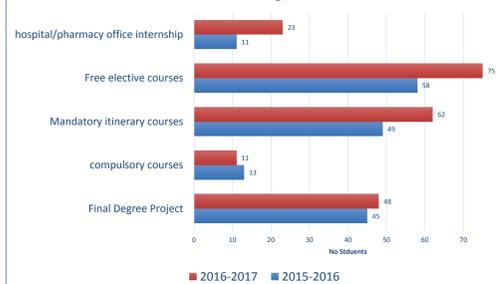
Regarding the mobility period it is observed that the outgoing students prefer the autumn semester and the incoming students prefer the spring semester. It might be due to the Organization of the degree curricula (outgoing students) and the weather conditions (incoming students).

Most of the students, as outgoing as incoming, perform the mobility through the Erasmus+ studies follow by Erasmus+ traineeship and bilateral agreements. In case of incoming students they are also coming through an individual application that means they have to pay the fees as at home as at host institutions.

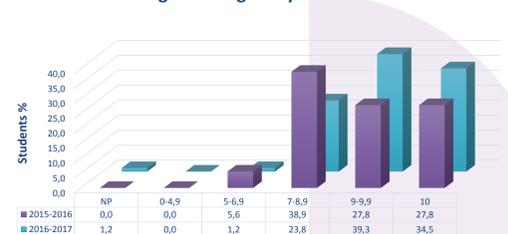
% Students according Kind of Mobility program



No of students according to the course taken



Average marks gain by the students



In these graphics it can be observe the kind of course taken or recognized at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences for the Pharmacy bachelor's degree and the average marks got by the students during their mobility

## WEAKNESSES AND IMPROVEMENT POINTS

WEAKNESSES	IMPROVEMENT PROPOSED
The outgoing mobility is far from 20 % proposed for the University of Barcelona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the visibility of International mobility through the new web page of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences.</li> <li>- Use the Virtual Campus to announce the different call the University of Barcelona has</li> <li>- Increase the number of information sessions</li> <li>- Increase the advertising: TV screens, posters, etc</li> <li>- Increase the bilateral agreements</li> </ul>
After selection and nominations to the different universities exist difficulties to establish a good Learning Agreement with a suitable quality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students choose the Host University because of the city or country</li> <li>- There are some agreements which not offer the different degrees we have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study all the agreements we have and better knowledge of host institutions can offer our students</li> <li>- Change the document with the offers including all the information we have in order the Student can choose better their destination</li> <li>- Conducting a survey to universities which we have already had an agreement with</li> </ul>
Lack of more universities offer especially at English countries, Nordic countries or universities which offer the degrees in English.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sign new agreements looking for Faculties of Pharmacy or Faculties which can offer our bachelor's degrees or Master's degrees:</li> <li>- Prepare a good presentation of our Faculty with everything we can offer, promotional video</li> </ul>
Although the management of the different mobility programs it is necessary to incorporate all the agents involved in the mobility at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a Sharepoint where all the involved agents will be able to access (tutors, academic secretary, assistant, International Responsible, etc)</li> </ul>
Although it is possible to asses the quality and the academic achievement of the students thorough the Transcript of Records we don't have checked the opinion of our Student related with all the mobility done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a survey to students when they come back from their mobility</li> <li>- Collect successful experiences</li> </ul>
Recognition of the Final Degree Project is very complicated due to the differences between different academical curriculum at different universities: our students can't not defend the projects at our Faculty if we have include it in the Learning Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Talk with the different universities we have an agreement to establish a good assessment for our students.</li> </ul>

## CONCLUSION

To sum up, the comprehensive study presented herein allows, after initial reflections, the identification of the improvement issues and the implementation of the proposals in order that the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences offers an outstanding internationalization program to undergraduates of the three degrees.