



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI PARMA**



WIDE call for applications – Palestine

"Enhancing Critical Thinking and Clinical Reasoning: a Transformative Educational Programme for Nursing Students"

The University of Parma, jointly with:

- Palestine Polytechnic University

offer their students the opportunity to participate in the "Enhancing Critical Thinking and Clinical Reasoning: A Transformative Educational Programme for Nursing Students" program, under the umbrella of the W.I.D.E. project of the University of Parma.

The W.I.D.E. project (Widening International Didactics & Education)

The W.I.D.E. project is closely tied to the guidelines and applications of the new ERASMUS+ Programme 2021/2027, it represents an application of the new internationalization at home strategy that the Parma University just launched and is functional to the strengthening of our strategic European Universities project.

The guidelines of the ERASMUS+ Programme 2021-2027 have inclusion and diversity as their first priority. The objective is to involve in the program's actions all those subjects who for health, social, economic or other reasons are unable to benefit from the program's internationalization projects. The Program also has digital transformation as its second priority. In line with the Digital Education Action Plan, the objectives are to create an efficient digital education ecosystem and to develop digital skills and competences for all.

The W.I.D.E. project represents an application of Parma University's strategic line of "Internationalization at home" and is part of a package of actions aimed at growing the international dimension of all University activities in the fields of teaching, research and Third Mission.

Finally, the W.I.D.E. project aims, in the current phase, to support the strategic project of the European Universities by favoring forms of collaboration between the Universities that have joined the EU Green Universities alliance, strengthening its chances of success.

The objectives of the W.I.D.E. project

W.I.D.E. is aimed at pursuing the following objectives:

- Introduce actions related to internationalization at home to extend the benefits of internationalization to all students and teachers unable to physically go abroad
- Promote cooperation with teachers and students of partner universities, EU Green Universities first and foremost, with the possibility of involving local communities as part of a network strategy and strategic alliances
- Introduce innovative teaching methodologies, encouraging connections between students and teachers from different institutions and developing consolidated international networks
- Experiment with the use of advanced technologies in teaching.

"Enhancing Critical Thinking and Clinical Reasoning: a Transformative Educational Programme for Nursing Students"

Call for applications

1. Description of the program

The **Widening International Didactics in Education (W.I.D.E.) Programme**, titled *"Enhancing Critical Thinking and Clinical Reasoning: A Transformative Educational Programme for Nursing Students"*, is a pioneering initiative designed to promote **international collaboration, educational innovation, and the development of essential nursing competencies**. Fully funded by the **University of Parma**, this programme aims to bridge nursing education between institutions, fostering **critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills** among students and faculty members.

Programme Learning Objectives

The W.I.D.E. Programme is structured to **enhance nursing students' problem-solving abilities, decision-making processes, and adaptability in clinical settings**. Through **interactive and immersive experiences**, participants will:

- Develop **critical thinking** skills to assess and respond to complex healthcare scenarios.
- Strengthen **clinical reasoning** through real-world case discussions and simulations.
- Gain **cross-cultural perspectives** by collaborating with international peers.
- Improve **academic and professional competencies** through evidence-based practices.

Course Structure and Teaching Techniques

The programme is structured into **two main components**:

1. Exchange Visits:

- Five **undergraduate nursing students** and one **faculty member** from **Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU)** will participate in an **intensive one-week visit** at the **University of Parma (UNIPR)**, and vice versa.

2. Virtual Learning:

- Participants will attend **five preparatory online sessions** before the exchange, which will introduce key topics and methodologies to maximize their learning experience.

Teaching Techniques

The W.I.D.E. Programme utilizes **student-centered and interactive teaching methodologies**, including:

- **Problem-Based Learning (PBL)** to facilitate active discussion and problem-solving.
- **Simulated Scenarios** to develop hands-on clinical skills.
- **Collaborative Workshops** fostering teamwork and peer learning.
- **Mentorship and Reflective Practice** guided by experienced faculty members.

Theoretical Framework and Bibliography

The programme is rooted in **evidence-based nursing education** and draws on key theoretical frameworks, including:

- **Benner's Novice to Expert Model** (1984) for competency development.
- **Tanner's Clinical Judgment Model** (2006) for decision-making in nursing.
- **Critical Thinking and Reasoning in Nursing** (Alfaro-LeFevre, 2020) as a guiding resource.

Additional reference materials and case studies will be provided during both the online and in-person sessions.

Language of Instruction

The **official language** of the programme is **English**, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for international participants.

By integrating **theoretical knowledge, practical experiences, and cross-cultural collaboration**, the W.I.D.E. Programme equips nursing students with **the skills and competencies needed for excellence in clinical practice and global healthcare environments**.

Program details

The Widening International Didactics in Education (W.I.D.E.) programme follows a structured calendar incorporating both virtual and physical learning components. The programme is fully funded by the University of Parma and is designed to enhance nursing students' digital competencies, intercultural collaboration, and compassionate care delivery.

Programme Calendar

- **Virtual Component:** Five preparatory online sessions will take place March 2025 preceding the intensive week in Parma. These sessions will introduce participants to critical thinking and clinical reasoning systematic approaches and prepare them for the in-person experience.
- **Physical Component:**
 - **University of Parma (UNIPR) Hosting Phase:** One-week intensive exchange programme for 5 undergraduate nursing students and 1 faculty member from Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU) at UNIPR (Monday to Friday) will take place from the 28th April to the 2nd of May 2025

- Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU) Hosting Phase: One-week intensive exchange programme for 5 undergraduate nursing students and 1 faculty member from UNIPR at PPU (Monday to Friday) **will be confirmed soon**

Academic Recognition (ECTS and Equivalents)

- The programme awards 3 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits, ensuring international recognition.

Programme Locations

- University of Parma, Italy
- Palestine Polytechnic University, Hebron, Palestine

Total Participants Per Institution

- University of Parma (Coordinator): 5 undergraduate nursing students + 1 faculty member
- Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU): 5 undergraduate nursing students + 1 faculty member

This programme promotes cross-cultural learning and critical thinking and clinical reasoning systematic approaches adoption in nursing education, preparing participants for future advancements in global healthcare.

2. Eligibility criteria

To apply for this program, students must be regularly enrolled at one of the participating universities.

Applicants must be enrolled in any year of the **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**.

at the time of the application submission, applicants must demonstrate proof of language language competence at the level level (cefr). this can be certified by accepted language certificates (see application procedures below).

Participation to this program is open to students of the following disciplines and/or degree courses:

- **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

3. How to apply

Students interested in participating should fill out the application form by 17/04/2025, as well as send the required documents to the address protocolloipmedicina@unipr.it

The following documents are required to complete the application:

- Copy of ID or passport
- Transcript of Records/ A certificate of enrolment at the home University with a list of passed exams and grades
- Language certificate
- Motivation letter

Please send ALL documents in a file in one email, with the subject line “LAST NAME – W.I.D.E. APPLICATION - PPU”.

4. Selection criteria and procedures

An appointed **committee** will carry out the selection procedures based on the following **criteria**:

- Transcript of Records/ A certificate of enrolment at the home University with a list of passed exams and grades (70 point maximum)
- Motivation letter (30 points maximum)

With a subsequent act by the Director of the Department, the documents related to the selection process, as well as the merit ranking, will be approved. This act will be published on the website of the Department of Medicine and Surgery (<https://mc.unipr.it/it>).

Selected students will be contacted with further instructions upon completion of the selection procedures.

5. Financial support

The University of Parma will cover the following expenses:

- Flight tickets: Up to EUR 650 per person (students and faculty)
- Students' accommodation and food: EUR 100 per day per student during the intensive week (5 teaching days + 2 travelling days)

6. Services at UNIPR

Services available to students during the in-person part of the program (examples might include):

Administrative Support: bip@unipr.it

7. Contacts

University of Parma (Coordinator) - Prof. Antonio Bonacaro - antonio.bonacaro@unipr.it

