

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy) of University of Turku (Turun yliopisto)**

### **International (EU and non-EU) strategy**

The University of Turku (UTU) is an international research university and a leading, trendsetting provider and developer of higher education in Finland. It is a diverse university community of more than 25 000 students and employees. UTU is part of the international academic community and works in collaboration with society. The operation and education at UTU is based on high-quality multidisciplinary research. UTU ensures equal opportunities for all community members to participate in the University's activities and to develop their skills and knowledge. This also means developing the curricula and the forms of teaching, ensuring accessibility and the readiness to recognise the demands of a multicultural environment. Students have an active role in UTU activities.

UTU educates experts in a range of fields for the needs of both working life and research. The educational development strategy is to commit teachers and students to a mutually responsible learning process. Active and continuous development of teaching and learning, including quality assurance, is a major part of UTU activities. Concrete aims include functional learning processes, teaching of high quality, an encouraging and inspiring atmosphere, better graduation rates, increasing internationalisation and for graduates to be satisfied with their degrees.

In the curricula of different fields and in the concluding mobility agreements, internationality is taken into account so that credits can be transferred and recognised by both parties. When selecting partners, the special needs of various academics are taken into consideration. UTU continues to balance its incoming and outgoing student mobility. It continues to offer high-quality degree study opportunities for international Master level and Doctoral students. The mobility of teachers and other staff is also an important element, as well as other aspects of lifelong learning.

UTU recognises its European and global responsibility. Thus, its cooperation partners include, in addition to European and other industrialised or developed countries, also universities and organisations in less developed countries. Besides Europe, special emphasis is geographically paid to the cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region Area including Russia, as well as in China and in Latin America. UTU concentrates in the partnerships that best support the aims of mutual cooperation in each field, including teacher and student mobility, cooperation in joint /double degrees and other curriculum development, lifelong learning, and cooperation related to graduate attributes e.g. employability and transferable skills, as well as technology transfer.

In order to enhance internationalisation, including common European values, the University aims to include a section in all degrees in all three cycles that prepares the student for internationalisation. In addition to student exchange or international placements, this may mean language teaching, intercultural communication skills, teaching in foreign languages and utilising foreign experts in teaching, for instance with the help of data and communication technology, besides shorter or longer visits. For incoming students and staff, courses in the Finnish language and culture are offered.

UTU develops joint or double degrees on Master and Doctoral level when feasible and having added value. UTU cooperates nationally in order to abolish the obstacles in the national legislation and regulations concerning implementation of joint and double degrees. Besides guidelines approved by the Rector, the support for planning and implementing international programmes or curriculum development projects is offered by the Study Administration in the faculty and central level.

The mobility of teachers and other personnel and their active contacts with international counterparts is an important factor in securing the academic quality of cooperation. The tenure track, different stages of one's career is taken into account in international activities on the campus or in global environment. The European Charter and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter & Code), which provides recommendations and good practice guidelines for the employment and recruitment of researchers, support the internationalisation. UTU has also set up, besides orientation and welcome services for exchange and degree students, International Welcome Services to assist international academic visitors, their families and hosting departments.

### **Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme**

UTU offers attractive higher education and it forms a network in conjunction with other HEIs, public sector research institutes and companies in the region and with the City of Turku. UTU aims at the dissemination of good practices on its own campus, both nationally and internationally. In addition, UTU develops its education export.

During the programme period UTU is to participate especially in the long-term strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances – cooperation with the chosen universities and business life. This supports the University's aim for high-quality operations and interaction, especially with the commercialisation of research, with doctoral education and with the development of graduate attributes. The partnerships support the multifaceted, multidisciplinary and closer cooperation, in which UTU has experience from the Baltic Sea Region including Russia and the Nordic countries, the European Neighbourhood, the Arctic region, East and South-East Asia, Southern Africa, and North and South America. Some of the networks, e.g., the Capacity building projects, support the concretisation of global responsibility and lifelong learning. UTU, for its part, aims to also promote the attractiveness of European higher education and research.

The Steering Group for International Affairs founded by the Rector and steered by one of the Vice Rectors includes also student representation and prepares the policies based on the strategy of the University. It supports the expansion and development of international operations and the utilisation of results of various projects by exploiting, for example, the in house and educational and other competence development programmes for staff.

UTU supports research, education and training, and innovation and development projects during their preparation and implementation. The University has solid experience in coordinating even large EU projects and other external funded projects. Centralised support services are offered.

### **Expected impact of the participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of University of Turku (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve**

High-quality research is a prerequisite both for research-based education and for the creation of social and technological innovation. Success in research leads to international networking, also in education, which in turn improves the University's competitiveness and the quality of its operation thus strengthening also ERA and EHEA.

The needs of lifelong learning are taken into account in addition to undergraduate, master and doctoral education. Participation in the Programme will support our aims. UTU cooperates closely with national and international educational sector. In order to reduce drop-outs and

ensure the quality of its education, UTU emphasis the student centred learning process in order to secure the successful graduation of its students. It also tracks the success of its graduates and collects feedback from students during studies. Virtual environments are in common use. Involving employers and labor market institutions is utilised, for example, in placements. UTU also offers pedagogical development to update the competence of its teachers. Benchmarking and joint cross border cooperation are essential for supporting the Modernisation Agenda.

Doctoral Training is offered by the UTU Graduate School. The Graduate School covers all disciplines and Doctoral Candidates of the University. It provides systematic and high quality doctoral training on academic topics, as well as on transferable skills and career planning. To meet the needs of the society, public and private sectors, UTU Graduate School aims to train highly qualified experts with the skills required for both professional career in research and other positions of expertise. Implementing tenure track and the European Charter and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers also supports the key issue of increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs.

Learning mobility of students and staff is also an important way for strengthening the quality. UTU participates in international research and education mobility activities in order to recruit both degree and exchange students, as well as researches and teachers. These opportunities are utilised also for outgoing mobility.

The University seeks closer linkages with research and business for excellence and regional cooperation. UTU and the City of Turku cooperation projects reach across borders. In order to encourage more partnerships the UTU Innovation Services, Research services with its IPR experts with other relevant UTU units are there to facilitate the process of knowledge transfer. One of the results of recent improvement of university governance and funding schemes is the ability to participate more actively in international strategic partnerships.