

Kajaanin ammattikorkeakoulu  
Kajaani University of Applied Sciences

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

**Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)**

International activities are driven by the KUAS'20 strategy and national guidelines. An Internationalisation Development Plan in which the guidelines directing international development are recorded has been compiled to support the strategy. According to this plan, existing partnerships will be reinforced and if required, new partners will be acquired from areas or fields that support the internationalisation of KUAS' fields of focus and are otherwise necessary in terms of strategic objectives. The geographical areas have not been specifically defined but the national aim to increase cooperation with BRIC has been noted.

Existing partners have been classified with the aim of conducting a wide range of cooperation with selected partners. The criteria determining the continuation of cooperation is a sufficient amount of /suitable courses taught in English, implemented mobility, feedback provided by students and staff and the opportunities for deepening cooperation. The objective is to improve quality, and increase attraction and impact with selected partnerships and networks. A set of instructions for acquiring new partners has been compiled and the development of a strategic partnership network has also begun. The desired cooperation with the strategic partners will cover shared education development projects, student and staff mobility, double-degree programmes, RDI and development functions, regional development cooperation and joint publications.

To ensure that all graduates will possess sufficient competence to work in international and multicultural operational environments all students work to a personal study plan and a related internationalisation plan, they are sufficiently informed to accomplish studies or practical training abroad, language studies are provided, as well as face to face and online teaching in a foreign language. To ensure that students accomplish a high quality mobility period and that their studies progress in the desired time, a Learning Agreement process is used, within which accreditation is carried out prior to the exchange period and intensive cooperation takes place with the partner universities. To support this amongst other processes, KUAS has its own Language Policy.

Graduating students can be awarded an International Passport with their degree certificate if they have accomplished enough studies linked to internationality. The aim of the International Passport is to highlight the student's international competence, thus distinguishing him or her from other job seekers. In addition all graduates receive a Diploma Supplement with their degree certificate. The Diploma Supplement label was awarded to KUAS in 2005 and 2010.

KUAS has six (6) double degree agreements. To ensure the high quality and process efficiency of the double degrees, instructions have been compiled in the form of a UAS Master's thesis. It is intended that the amount of double degrees and shared courses will increase in cooperation with selected partners.

According to the KUAS'20 action programme, educational activities will be developed to be nationally and internationally attractive and intrinsically combined with KUAS' competence areas and fields of focus. The aim is to increase the amount of foreign staff members, develop the language skills of existing staff and to implement a systematic and goal-oriented exchange of staff and experts. Our staff members are encouraged to be internationally mobile and working time is reserved for this purpose during the personal progress review. The objective of staff internationalisation is to support the internationalisation of KUAS, its students and projects.

Also, periods of mobility for incoming foreign students must be of a high standard. A high quality selection of courses and teaching/help in finding training places that take into account RDI activities and high quality support services are in place to ensure this. International student tutor, and friend-family activities, as well as recreational activities arranged by the International Club have been developed for incoming students. Such activities also promote the internationalisation of students studying in Finland.

**If applicable, please describe your institution's 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. (max. 2000 characters)**

Pursuant to the KUAS'20 Strategy, research and development activity is strong within its fields of focus: activity tourism, games and vehicle information systems. A determined and constant effort is being made to internationalise KUAS project activities, to construct thematic international networks and to develop the staff's international project skills.

The Head of R&D, Teaching, R&D staff and students participate in KUAS' project activities. R&D activities are integrated into the competence areas to reinforce identity and the competences therein and to enable the integration of teaching and R&D activities; some of the projects are closely integrated into teaching to enable students to carry out assignments and theses within development projects. The projects are implemented according to project activity guidelines based on the quality assurance system, and projects are managed centrally by one team. In addition to separate projects, all studies will be integrated through the modular curriculum with the use of learning assignments completed for day-to-day working life. This area of development 'Students in development activities' is core to the implementation of the Proactive University of Applied Sciences Strategy. Each competence area enjoys its own trained and qualified key persons who advance the aforementioned tasks.

**Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)**

Our focus is study progress and degrees through study counseling and streamlining activities. There are versatile and effective routes of study in place for the students to accomplish their studies with the aid of pedagogical solutions. For several years running, KUAS results based on various indicators, particularly in the quality of teaching and study counseling, have been the best in Finland.

The development of education activities is one of five strategic areas of development at KUAS. Such development involves cross-disciplinary cooperation to improve learning processes, enable further cross-disciplinary study and working life learning projects. Pedagogical competence, (innovation pedagogy training), staff language skills and learning results (assessment

development) are promoted. From autumn 2013, a 10 credit Proactive UAS module involving all degree programs will be implemented.

The quality of education and international operations will be specifically developed with an international cooperation network. The construction of a strategic international partner network has begun and the aimed for cooperation covers shared education development projects, student and staff mobility, double degree programs, joint R&D and development functions, cooperation within regional development and joint publications.

The KUAS '20 Strategy is founded on advancing regional cooperation. KUAS' vision that KUAS is Finland's most Proactive University reflects our, together with our partners in cooperation, aim to be a leading promoter of RDI operations and business and commerce, a leading body in improving the education and competence level of the population as well as a dynamic partner in cooperation and reformer of working life within the operational area.

As from the autumn 2013 all students will be provided with the basic competence to engage in cross-disciplinary studies and learning through practical project work and practical learning assignments completed for regional companies and other operators. All students complete a t practical training in various business, public or their sector jobs and positions. Within the adult education degree programs, course assignments are mainly completed for the benefit of the student's work community.

The KUAS '20 Strategy is a structural, operational and cultural change which aims to create a procedure enabling proactive operations at KUAS. KUAS' leadership and quality assurance system has been combined and as part of quality management, the cycle of continual improvement is applied. Processes are assessed annually using feedback and the necessary changes and improvements are made. The central overall learning processes of the UAS (learning by doing, practical training, theses, and language studies) are being developed in cross-disciplinary teams. R&D operations has been integrated into the competence areas and finance competence of the staff has been improved in order to increase external funding.