

Erasmus Policy Statement

The targets of OUAS's internationalisation are based on the Finland's Internationalisation Strategy of Higher Education 2009 - 2015, OUAS's strategy 2015, the alliance agreement of the Oulu innovation locus, higher education development plan 2011 - 2016 and the agreement between OUAS and the Ministry of Education and Culture. Internationalisation is one of the internal development targets of OUAS's strategy.

Director of international activities who operates under the vice rector responsible for education and research and development, international services team and international coordinators of the schools are in charge of planning and coordinating of internationalisation activities. Actors in OUAS's internationalisation are all staff members and all students. According to OUAS's development plan 2013 - 2015 internationalisation is promoted by developing mobility, joint teaching and research, development and innovation activities with focal partners. In students' mobility the aim is at mobility of large enough student groups. These are supported by the staff mobility with the same partners. The goal is to develop double degrees and jointly produced extensive parts of degrees. In project work we aim at multinational projects that support our strategic goals. Also preconditions for education export are enhanced and education export is increased.

Main measures of internationalisation are

- Development of volume and quality of teacher, staff and expert mobility in all field and levels.
- Increasing the volume and quality of student mobility and amount of credits completed abroad (incl. practical training) in all fields and degree cycles.
- developing the amount and quality of teaching in English
- Concentrating and deepening partnerships towards diverse strategic alliances within which joint cooperation plans are drawn up for development of teaching, RDI work and mobility.
- Enhancing networking of research, development and innovation and project activities
- Development of education export as a part of building the Intelligent Community Institute entity and by acting in the Future Learning Finland network.

The main emphasis of OUAS's international cooperation lies in Europe, but based on the needs of educational units and strategic focus areas cooperation is carried out also with selected partners outside Europe. Partners are selected according to jointly agreed criteria. OUAS's criteria for assessing, recognising cooperation and for selecting new partners includes among others academic level of the partner, established and well-functioning mobility cooperation, existing cooperation in education and RDI projects (or at least a volition for them), partner's compatibility to OUAS's strategic focus areas and targets, partner's diverse disciplines and their juxtaposition with OUAS's fields of education. Based on the criteria and needs the partnerships are classified into three categories: strategic, key and mobility partnerships with different targets and cooperation plans.

OUAS's target is planning and realisation of double-degree programmes in all fields of education. Further the aim is that at least 10% of teaching of all fields of education are produced in cooperation with international partners. The opportunities offered by the new Erasmus programme will be utilised versatilely in implementing the targets of OUAS's development plan, strategy and action plan of internationalisation. The main emphasis of OUAS's participation in the Programme lies on student and staff mobility and their development, in building double and joint degrees as well as building strategic and knowledge alliances and capacity building especially in the neighbouring areas, but also in the selected other target areas. OUAS will take part in network cooperation as far as participation supports the aims and needs of our strategic focus and development areas and educational fields.

The focal partners of OUAS, the focus areas and schools are identified as part of the concentration process of partnerships, and concrete cooperation action plans are drawn up with them. The goal is to create international projects to be realised e.g. within the frameworks of programmes of the new EU programme period.

Aim of OUAS's internationalisation and international project work is to develop education, methods of teaching and learning and contents of education and development of education branch in collaboration with good quality international partners. Together with strategic partners we aim at implementing also capacity building activities with partners in third countries especially in OUAS's strategic focus and development areas.

The targets of OUAS's development plan and strategy are in line with the EU modernisation agenda of education and research. Internationalisation is a key component in development and modernisation of OUAS. Students' mobility periods are planned more systematically as a part of study path to enhance advancement of studies and increasing the number of completed degrees. International competence is a part of the competence profile of all our degree programmes. Through the competence a student is able to work in a socially responsible manner and examine global effects of his/her own actions and is able to work in an international

environment. The basic principle of OUAS's internationalisation is development of education as well as research, development and innovation activities in cooperation with high quality international partners. The target of international cooperation, and thus also of participation in the programme, is development of the quality of education, creating opportunities for students and staff and development of international collaboration and interaction in all fields and levels of education.

Education in the universities of applied sciences is based on the demand of development of working life, research and artistic and cultural starting points. University of applied sciences' applied research, development and innovation work and supporting entrepreneurial activities support, in addition to teaching, also the development of the region and renew its economic and working life. OUAS evolves and develops new professional expertise in cooperation with domestic and international education and research communities. Diverse development of entrepreneurial activities and fostering new companies are key components of operations.

OUAS aims at education export in its strongest fields of expertise. Teaching is developed and realised in cooperation with the working life. Multidisciplinary enables realisation of innovative education and research, development and innovation work responding to the needs of the working life in cooperation with regional and international companies as well as education and research organisations. As part of its development plan OUAS revises its administrative structures to enhance productivity and effectiveness. Research, development and innovation activities are realised in close cooperation with working and economic life of the region, other education and research organisations and the City of Oulu e.g. in the framework of the Oulu Innovation Alliance.