

Erasmus Policy Statement of University of Turku - Turun yliopisto (SF TURKU01)

The University of Turku (UTU) is an internationally active and attractive research university whose strength lies in high quality, multidisciplinary research. It is a diverse university community of almost 24 000 students and employees. We promote education and free science and provide higher education based on research. Our values are creativity, openness, ethical principles, critical thinking and strong communality, all resonating with Erasmus values including inclusiveness. We proactively foster both well-being and a sustainable future. The research conducted at UTU is ethical and scientifically excellent. It has significant impact and meets future global challenges. Close national and international collaboration strengthens our quality and impact.

We educate future experts who will solve complex scientific questions and social issues and build a sustainable world. The education we provide aims to encourage students towards independent critical thinking and achieving comprehensive learning goals. Our graduates have excellent collaboration skills, the ability to create work for themselves and others, and expertise that can be applied to different sectors of society. We offer attractive and broad ranging opportunities for the continuous development of expertise.

Erasmus+ programme is the base for organizing student and staff/teacher mobilities and for providing learning outcomes beyond UTU campus. Our students build individual degrees by selecting the most inspiring study modules from our multidisciplinary study tracks and from the curriculum offered by the partner universities. We continuously develop pedagogical and digital solutions in teaching and studying - International benchmarking and joint development is helping us in this task especially in creating blended mobility opportunities.

UTU concentrates in the Erasmus+ partnerships that best support the aims of 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 that prepares the student for internationalisation. In addition to student exchange or international placements, this may mean also other forms of 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 enhancing also quality blended mobility.

By strengthening career counselling and our connections to professional life, we support students' work placement both in Finland and abroad also through Erasmus programme. Our University community is open, equal, and multicultural, and we support students with different backgrounds. Our strength lies in close collaboration between students and staff. The University offers flexible opportunities for lifelong learning and supplementing expertise at different points of career development. We anticipate and meet the changing needs of society by exploring new methods and collaborative models and by engaging us in related policy development. Erasmus+ programme is well-suited tool for this, too.

UTU values close collaboration in regional, national and international networks. Strategic collaboration strengthens our societal impact. As an Entrepreneurial University, we collaborate with

business life in order to create opportunities for innovations and their commercialisation as well as business development.

UTU carries global responsibility and is a proactive partner in development and in the ongoing process towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UTU is dedicatedly strengthening sustainability in its international research and education cooperation. In addition, we reinforce in jointly designed competence building projects, where the focus is on the desired short to long-term and goal-oriented results. Erasmus+ is one of the key instruments also for enhancing cooperation in innovative education and promoting excellence not only in EHEA or for EHEA but also in third world countries. Furthermore, UTU is working e.g. with World Bank's Resilience Academy in Africa to achieve this. UTU has also joined efforts to build a European University Alliance.