



European Policy Statement (EPS)

Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) seeks to continue its participation in the Erasmus programme for 2021 – 2027. TAMK has about 10,000 students and 800 staff members, whose participation in different Erasmus activities has been active and productive. In addition to education, TAMK's legal responsibilities include research, innovation, and regional development. The Erasmus programme has continuously supported international mobility and comprehensive project work at TAMK in accordance with its strategy.

Since the beginning of 2019, TAMK has formed a university community with Tampere University. The main theme of the community's strategy is "Impact through integration". The long-term objectives towards achieving an attractive higher education community are to strengthen the international networking culture, to create a digital campus, to develop novel ways of working and to drive sustainable societal renewal. TAMK has formed a strategy towards 2030, leaning to the goals of Tampere university community, with the ambition to produce high-quality professional higher education and innovation as a multidisciplinary and working-life oriented UAS. One of the critical success factors is increase in internationality in all our operations. To achieve its strategic objective of being an international UAS, TAMK focuses on learning in working life and international networks, use of new technologies, ecological innovations and sociocultural challenges.

Furthermore, in 2016 the Ministry of Education and Culture prepared policies to promote internationalisation in Finnish higher education and research. The objective of the policies is to strengthen the quality of Finnish higher education and research and to reach a position as a globally recognised frontrunner by 2025. The policies contain seven goals and in February 2020, 17 recommendations were given to ensure the further development of internationalisation in higher education and research. The policies and recommendations are a strong back to lean on when implementing TAMK's internationalization strategy, to reach the high standards of Finnish higher education but also succeed in global competition and contribute to shaping the European Education Area to a place where international education is the new normal.

The Erasmus programme with its variety of activities is an important tool in achieving the strategic goals of TAMK. The programme also supports TAMK's role as an active developer of our region. Through different Erasmus project activities, TAMK can decidedly take part in sustainable development of the society and respond to societal challenges. TAMK's and the Tampere Universities community's common goal of utilizing digitalization has taken a massive leap forward during spring 2020 setting the goals for modernisation even higher for the coming Erasmus programme 2021 – 2027. The digital tools developed for the Erasmus programme will be taken into use to further increase the number of participating students and staff in mobility but also to better engage under-represented participants. This emphasises the need for risk management where international co-operation is the key.

International networks are already an important part of TAMK's international activities and we seek to work vigorously and effectively in them. During the Erasmus programme period 2021 – 2027, the role of networks is further highlighted within the European Universities networks. Hence, TAMK sets out to coordinate a European universities alliance, with the aim of positioning and strengthening the role of the UAS in the European Higher Education Area as well as in regional and national innovation systems. In addition to international



networks, TAMK will immensely benefit from its regional networks. The businesses and surrounding cities, areas and municipalities provide practical placements for international students, project assignments and development challenges for all learners and staff and as such, support the aims for internationalising TAMK but also contribute to the modernisation agenda. In addition, TAMK's international contribution in the region has an impact on the European citizen's identity.

On the threshold of a new Erasmus programme, all partner agreements are carefully evaluated. The development of partner network is set to reach quantitative and qualitative targets, stressing the need to cover all fields of education and expertise. Instead of geographical distribution, a good partnership is to demonstrate success in TAMK's strategic focus areas, allowing us to better respond to the development needs of the European Education Area.