

Erasmus Higher Education Policy Statement

An increasingly globalized world forces us to face complex demands in different areas of life. We aim to provide students with global perspectives on their discipline and their future profession and thus increase their employability, as well as to promote responsible global citizenship among all university stakeholders (Internationalization Strategy University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna 2025). As a multidisciplinary University of Applied Sciences, University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna sets itself the goal of combining interdisciplinarity with internationalization. Students and staff are encouraged to develop global perspectives, think across cultures, and collaborate internationally and interdisciplinarily. With the expansion of international networks and partnerships, we strengthen the exchange of knowledge and cooperation in teaching, research and administration (Strategy 2025).

The Erasmus+ Key Actions mobility for students and staff (KA1) as well as partnerships for collaboration and exchange of proven procedures and innovations (KA2) support us significantly in living up to our educational mission. The innovative development of our university through collaboration and exchange in transnational partnerships and projects contributes substantially to the innovation agenda of our university. Internationalized curricula ensure international mobility and international experiences at home.

The mission and vision formulated in our institution-wide Strategy 2025 and Internationalization Strategy 2025, as well as strategic guidelines and measures, are in line with the priorities of the European Innovation Agenda for Higher Education and the objectives of the European Education Area. The Erasmus+ Program is a key component for realizing our mission and goals.

It is important to us to prepare our students for working and living environments that increasingly demand acting in diverse and internationally connected contexts. The Erasmus+ Key Action learning mobility is a central promotional instrument to strengthen cross-sectional and key competencies such as critical and innovative thinking, social competencies and foreign language skills in our students by means of international mobility experiences. The encouragement of shared (European) values (also see priorities of the European Education Area) and civil engagement support our goal to foster a cosmopolitan attitude with humanistic values (responsible global citizenship) (Internationalization Strategy University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna 2025). In this way, we contribute essentially to the education of highly qualified, socially engaged European high achievers (see European Innovation Agenda), who are able to meet the requirements of professions in the 21st century and who show social responsibility towards society. The mobility of university staff (lecturers, researchers and general university staff) enables continuing education and global networking and thus makes a significant contribution to the implementation of our goals. The international networks, partnerships, cooperation projects funded through Erasmus+, as well as the European University Initiative, strengthen cross-border collaboration and exchange in teaching, research, and institutional development. They enable us to work together on innovative solutions and drive forward new developments for the benefit of higher education and society. New, non-traditional mobility formats like blended mobility strengthen our inclusive approach towards internationalization. Furthermore, we regard international mobility components and transnational projects as an opportunity to be a globally attractive institution and to build cooperations with third countries. The international dimension of the Erasmus+ program, international credit mobility with partner countries, and transnational projects are seen as valuable opportunities to enhance our global attractiveness and to establish and strengthen cooperation with countries beyond Europe.

Mobility for students and university staff (KA1)

We implement Erasmus+ study stays and internships and regard them as a chance to acquire key skills (transversal skills) that are in high demand on the labor market (see also Erasmus Impact Study, 2014). University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna focuses on practical work experience by carrying out numerous Erasmus+ traineeships and thus prepares its students for the professional field in the best possible way. Mobility combined with interdisciplinary research in (international) research networks, should enforce the entrepreneurial spirit of our graduates. Traditional mobility (a semester or internship abroad) and non-traditional mobility formats (e.g. virtual exchanges, short-term mobility) enable our students and staff to gain international experience as well as to expand their professional network. The expansion of non-traditional mobility formats (blended mobility) as well as individualized mobility offers for university staff, take into account the diversity and different needs of our students and staff, reduce mobility barriers and enable broad participation in the program. We make sure that mobilities take place in a quality-assured manner, that mobilities are prepared, followed up and accompanied, that full credit transfer is guaranteed and that mobile students and staff are provided with appropriate support.

Furthermore, internationalization should contribute to overcome social and democratic challenges. In accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN (Strategy 2025), we have made it our goal to strengthen Global Citizenship Education. For us this also includes understanding cultural diversity as an important resource for our university. The diversity and experiences provided by people with different backgrounds enrich our university and offer a diversity of perspectives in teaching and research. In this sense, we see transnational mobility as an important resource for internationalizing teaching. Moreover, the Erasmus+ Program can act as a driver for innovative orientation of the curricula and teaching. In our curricula, we address global, international, local and societal issues, use interaction with the local community and cultural diversity on campus in the spirit of Internationalization at Home and thus strengthen active citizenship and civil engagement.

The digitalization of mobility administration (Erasmus without Paper), in addition to the promotion and realization of environmentally friendly methods in all program activities, contribute to the creation of an increasingly sustainable university.

Partnerships for cooperation as well as exchange of proven procedures and for innovations (KA2)

The Key Action KA2 enables University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna to learn from international partners across borders, exchange good practices, promote innovation at the university and by that, University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna is able to contribute to the modernization of the Higher Education Sector within Europe.

We submit future projects via the Erasmus+ funding scheme with the aim of strengthening the innovative development of our degree programs as well as teaching and research, and the aim of raising the profile of our university in international competition. In order to achieve this, we offer appropriate support and create internal conditions at our university to increase the success rate of project applications (International Strategy 2025).

University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna, as a multidisciplinary University of Applied Sciences, shows in its internationalization agenda a variety of implementation options, content focus areas and geographical focus regions. We regard the various manifestations of internationalization activities as a strength of the internationalization of our university. In that regard, the project submissions should reflect the content range, expertise and demands of the departments and degree programs. Participation in multilateral European university projects within the framework of Erasmus+ provides us with the opportunity to test and implement innovative teaching and learning methods. The exchange of knowledge with the professional world enables us to adapt the curricula to the requirements of the labor market and thus increases the employability of our graduates. Jointly developed modules, semesters as well as Joint and Double Degrees, strengthen the quality of our curricula. They unite the strengths of national curricula and help us to benefit from diverse access to teaching and higher education systems. We focus on learning from other higher education systems, procedures in organization as well as from administration and curriculum development in an international context, in order to drive further the innovative development of our university.

STUDENT MOBILITY

Planned impact: With participation in learning mobility, we enable all students to acquire global, international and transcultural competencies during their studies. In order to achieve this, we support traditional transnational mobility and non-traditional mobility formats as well as the internationalization of our curricula and global citizenship education. We support civil engagement in mobility phases and extend our support before, during and after the mobility. We simplify administrative processes through digitalization within the framework of Erasmus without Paper (EWP) and commit ourselves in particular to unrestricted and equal access to mobility and to the promotion of sustainable mobility.

Goals (indicators and timeline included):

- Until the end of 2027, 20% of our graduates have completed a study-relevant stay abroad.
- Mobility windows are integrated in our degree programs (semester or internship abroad, short-term mobility, virtual cooperations) to strengthen the quality of our curricula and to give all students the chance to gain international experience.
- In the sense of an inclusive approach to internationalization, non-traditional forms of mobility (short-term mobility with virtual components) continuously add to traditional ones.
- Stays abroad are quality-assured; they are prepared before and after and accompanied during the mobility phase.
- The support for mobile participants is continuously expanded (e.g. support regarding the visa process, accommodation, insurance).
- With the promotion of Global Citizenship Education in teaching and internationalized curricula, we establish a framework for active citizenship and civil engagement.
- By 2025, the University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna has implemented the steps for digital management of the Erasmus+ Program according to the EU roadmap.
- Until the end of the funding period (2027), the majority of mobile program participants prefers environmentally friendly travel options.

Support for students:

- The academic and organizational advice and support by the international coordinator of the degree program and the international office is fair, transparent and comprehensible, during and after a stay abroad.
- Mobile students receive information from former mobile students for the preparation of their stay abroad (participant reports, participation in networking formats for exchange).
- A continuously updated course catalog, information on the grading system, and grade distribution tables are published on the homepage and ensure transparent information on the acknowledgment and conversion of grades.
- An academic and social orientation program for incoming students (orientation week, buddy system, cultural program) is offered to help with the integration at our university and to promote regional and transcultural learning.
- Mobile students (outgoing as well as incoming) receive a financial grant when participating in language classes.
- The International Office and the Gender & Diversity Management Department offer special support and consultation for participants with special needs.

STAFF MOBILITY

Planned impacts: Staff mobility enables University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna in strengthening the personal and professional development of its employees. Thus staff mobility contributes essentially to broadening the horizon of all university stakeholders and hence supports the innovative development of the university. This is to be achieved

by linking human resource development and internationalization, creating incentive and acknowledgment systems, and expanding the offer of continuing education at our institution.

Goals (indicators and timeline included):

- Institution-wide staff mobility is increased to 15% per capita mobility per academic year.
- Strategies of human resource development are complemented by internationally aligned components and create conditions that stimulate mobility.
- By 2023, a structured quality framework for transnational staff mobility is available, setting out the added benefit of mobility at the individual level for the field of work and for the institution.
- Our continuing education offer in internationalization is continuously expanded and encourages being mobile.
- We implement customized mobility offers that address the needs of staff.
- Feedback concerning mobility activities is evaluated regularly and used to improve support measures.
- We identify ambassadors who serve as role models and motivators of the program.

Support for university staff:

- We inform regularly about mobility options and continuing education offers and promote them via different information channels.
- The International Office and the service departments support mobile lecturers and staff before, during and after their mobilities.
- Platforms of exchange motivate staff to learn from mobile participants and provide an overview of the mobility options.
- The commitment of internationally motivated (and mobile) employees is made visible through rewarding colleagues with a so-called "Go International Award" for internationalization.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE OF PROVEN METHODS

Participation in international cooperation projects is intended to provide impulses for the innovative development of curricula, teaching and organization. Transnational projects in higher education lay the foundation for building sustainable partnerships and strategic networks. We submit cooperation projects with selected partner institutions. Special attention is paid to the quality of the respective consortia, the special expertise of the partners and the topic selection. The orientation of the content is in line with our strategic goals and with our defined research fields to sustainably integrate the project results into the activities of our university and to do justice to the content range of our degree programs. A fundamental analysis of demand precedes the decision to take part in projects. We use internal support structures to relieve degree programs and organizational units during project submission and processing, and we plan to extend these in the coming years. This includes the support of degree programs in the application process, reporting, financial processing and project management. We aim at continuing partnerships established in projects, beyond the duration of the projects. We contribute to the success of the projects by offering appropriate support, by promoting the projects efficiently via our info channels and by creating internal framework conditions to increase the success rate of Erasmus+ projects.