

## Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027

Global perspectives and the will to face global challenges are common principles which dictate the prerequisites for the development towards internationalized research and education. Halmstad University (hereinafter: HU) wants to develop internationalisation within the university with the help of long-term international strategic partnerships that strengthen the University's profile and lead to enhanced forms of collaboration. Furthermore, HU wants to achieve emphasizing itself internationally within all its areas and to position itself within strategic, international networks through the collaboration between the business sector and society and the participation in for example the Erasmus programme.

HU's vision is that it adds value, drives innovation and prepares people and society for the future. The vision expresses HU's long-term goals – a beacon to strive for. This can mean different things to different people in different roles at the university, but all employees contribute to the process of realizing the vision. All employees, irrespective of whether they work with education, research, administration or service, should assess their work tasks in relation to the vision's three key phrases: "How do I help to add value, drive innovation and develop society through the work I do?".

It is of course in the interest of HU to use the full potential of education and culture as drivers for job creation, economic growth and better social unity, as well as a great instrument to experience and develop European identity in all its diversity.

Three goals show what HU is striving towards, how the university wants to profile itself and develop in the next ten years. To each of these goals, several strategies or activities are connected, to more concretely describe what the university will do long-term to achieve these goals.

One of these goals is to provide students with a top-quality university experience. The students at HU are respected, sought after and appreciated thanks to their experience, knowledge and capacity for critical thinking. The study programmes and the students' overall experience of the university are characterized by excellence, sustainability, international perspectives, collaboration and relevance to society. Students interact with knowledgeable and dedicated teachers and researchers who use innovative teaching methods and university-adapted pedagogics to provide education of the highest quality. Students and employees thrive and work together in creative, dynamic multidisciplinary laboratories and learning environments.

Research, education and collaboration enrich each other and create lively and international knowledge arenas.

To reach the goal of a top-quality university experience, HU continues for example to develop its quality assurance system regarding education, where student influence, internationalisation, equality and sustainability are natural components. HU develops new study programmes and strengthens existing ones in profile areas linked to HU's research and of relevance for society. HU strengthens links between education and research by increasing the number of teachers conducting research and increasing student involvement in the university's research environments. HU creates the best possible conditions for a lively campus and dynamic and inclusive student activities and continues to develop laboratory and learning environments that promote collaboration and creativity. Encouraging and supporting the development of pedagogics, subject didactics, digital skills and subject knowledge, and continuing to develop the university's system for qualifications acquisition to enable successful teaching to be rewarded are further steps towards achieving this goal. HU works as well on a general strategy for the digitalization of education that supports collaborative processes and the exchange of experiences and develops an infrastructure that supports the strategy.

By participating in the Erasmus Programme HU wants to achieve increased incoming as well as outgoing student mobility. The Erasmus Programme is an important step towards the mentioned goal. The exchange of students, researchers and staff is important for increasing the quality of HU's education, teaching and learning outcomes. Students are educated as global citizens and the students and staff who do not have the possibility to study or go abroad benefit from the international classroom and the internationalization at home through a vivid exchange with Erasmus.

HU is largely dependent of incoming exchange students as they form quite a big part of the total amount of master students at the university which enables the other students to experience internationalization at home. Incoming exchange students are as well possible future researchers at HU. The experiences of our outgoing and incoming exchange students enrich their study programmes, fellow students and teachers at HU and at home and of course as well their own personal and professional competence. They gain a top-quality university experience and help others to do so as well.

Halmstad University has two profile areas, Health innovation and Smart cities and Communities and shares the European Commission's view that "Europe's cultural diversity is a strength that fuels creativity and innovation" (European Commission European Commission. 2017). The Universities bearing principles regarding internationalization are:

*Developing global collaborations are of central importance for attracting excellence and talented international students, teachers, and researchers, are several important contributions to achieving high-quality research and education."*

*Collaboration with business and society through strategic international knowledge networks to make the university internationally recognized in all its areas.*

HU plans to take part in KA1 “Learning mobility” and KA2 “Cooperation among organizations and institutions” and considers Erasmus+ a significant pathway to support the universities principles and profile areas.

Participation in KA1, via high quality mobility of staff and students through incoming and outgoing international exchange activities is important for HU. Exchange students gain international experience and new perspectives that enrich their education, strengthen their personal and professional skills, and contribute to preparing their careers. The mobility of staff such as professors, teachers and trainers increase quality assurance, improves the level of key competences, and contributes to a cohesive European society. Incoming exchange students are a resource for recruitment to postgraduate programs at the university and contribute to the feeling of an international classroom at HU. Furthermore, international students have made up a relatively large proportion of the total number of students in the master's and master's programs at the university and we are working on increasing this in the future.

Regarding KA2, all teachers, researchers and other staff members at Halmstad University are encouraged to make regular international contacts with universities, companies and organizations. At the same time international travel and contacts must not only be of significance to the individual but must also fulfill the requirement to be of value to the institution. In addition, journeys must meet common requirements for resource and cost efficiency. An expected result of participation in KA2 is an increased number of international personnel recruited within the university profile areas, this international recruitment as a result of increased cooperation among organizations and institutions is expected to have a positive impact on research and education at Halmstad University and fuel growth in the local and international labor market.

KA1 & KA2 will be implemented through several different measures at Halmstad University. Most measures are centered around some key findings from the Erasmus+ Higher education Impact study (2019) and include: Develop a sense of European Identity for students prior to mobility, identify financial barriers, find solutions to combat common barriers for employee's family and work responsibilities, make the establishment or enhancing of collaborations and networks meaningful. The organizational structure to support the implementation of KA 1&2 consists of the international team and the international office. The international team is chaired by the pro-vice chancellor, Anders Nelson, and includes representatives from the international office, the marketing department, and all academic faculties. The task of the international team is to develop the university-wide internationalization, mainly in connection with education, by leading strategic areas and processes where there is a university-wide coordination. The international office consists of staff who are responsible for the day to day operations. The most common activities to implement the key actions are fortnightly meetings for the international team to steer up strategies and processes, open information meetings for all students interested in mobility, degree course specific information meetings, websites for promoting key partner universities, websites for incoming and outgoing students and outgoing staff, and the use of tools/software that promote transparent administration of all projects.

The envisaged impact is that our students, staff and researchers will gain an international perspective and are prepared for a more globalized world. Research, education and collaboration enrich each other and will create lively and international knowledge arenas through the participation.

The students at Halmstad University study in an international environment which promotes creativity, innovation, capacity for collaboration and intercultural skills. Halmstad University's internal culture is characterised by creativity, openness and the ability to bring about change.

The biggest targets for Halmstad University are: to increase the number of students, staff, and researchers gaining international experience; to develop internationalisation within the university; and to develop the long-term international strategic partnerships that strengthen the university's profile and lead to enhanced forms of collaboration.

Indicators for monitoring those goals are the number of incoming and outgoing students, staff, and researchers, the number of courses given in English at Halmstad University, the number of HU's students taking courses in English, results of the participant reports and the balance of exchange agreements.

We will have to start with gaining a better balance between incoming and outgoing students. We have today an imbalance with some very popular partner institutions because many of our outgoing students want to go there, but the partner institutions have a hard time convincing their students to study abroad. We only will be able to attract more incoming students if we can offer more courses in English. Of course we will have to visit our partner institutions and meet their students in person in order to be able to promote Halmstad University as an attractive and natural choice for their studies abroad.

To be able to increase our outgoing students, we need more attractive agreements for all of the subject areas. By more attractive agreements we mean agreements which include a wide range of subject areas and which include as many students as possible. By that we mean the possibility of virtual and short term exchange as well as more possibilities for internships abroad which are coordinated by teachers or other staff. We have a lot of agreements today, but not all the study programmes have the same generous supply of options for their students as others. Many of the programmes have to earmark their agreements for their students.