

## **Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027 (EPS):**

Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS) is an innovative and multidisciplinary institution of higher education which creates international competitiveness and well-being for Southwest Finland. With its community of 10,000 members teaching, studying and carrying out research at three faculties and in over seventy different degree programmes in four fields of study, TUAS acts as a significant agent of internationalisation in the region and its working life.

Internationalisation is integrated in the overall *strategy of TUAS 2019-2031*. TUAS seeks to enhance also the strategies outlined for internationalisation in the national strategies *Vision for Higher Education and Research in 2030*, *International Strategy for Higher Education and Research 2017–2025 in Finland* and *Academy of Finland International Policy for 2017–2021* as well as in the regional strategies *Turku City Strategy 2029* and the *Regional Strategy for Southwest Finland 2018-2021*.

At TUAS the international perspective is embedded into all the operations: education, research, development and innovation (RDI) activities and working life collaboration. Internationalisation supports the strategic objectives of TUAS that include reaching excellence of international level, succeeding in international competition and contributing to and benefiting from international networks of higher education institutions. International activities at TUAS diversify and improve the quality of education and research, develop intercultural and international competences that are required from students and staff in today's global and multicultural working life and society, and promote internationalisation of Turku, Salo and Southwest Finland.

In terms of internationalisation, Erasmus+ is one of the most important programmes for TUAS. Erasmus+ activities - student and trainee mobility, teacher and staff mobility, and joint degree/programme, networking and cooperation projects with other higher education institutions and other strategic partners, such as enterprises, organisations and regional authorities - enable internationalisation in accordance with the TUAS strategic plans.

The Programme will help to boost the high quality of education and research at TUAS, and to increase its social and economic impact within the local and regional context. International partner institutions and other international partners of TUAS are selected not only on the basis of mutual academic interest in education and research in the field of study in question, but also on the basis of partner's scope and quality of international RDI activities, international partnerships and network memberships, commitment in reciprocal student and staff mobility, and possibilities for cooperation in terms of shared expertise, funding and working languages. In addition, the geographical area of the partner is considered important, as TUAS is looking for cooperation in regions that are relevant for local businesses and organisations. Even though the major focus for international partnerships is on Europe, TUAS is currently strengthening collaboration with its existing partners and developing long-term collaboration with new partner universities and organisations also in other parts of the world.

Erasmus+ learning mobility and cooperation among organisations and institutions increase the comparability and transparency of the higher education degrees and qualifications in Europe. TUAS is committed in developing its international activities and collaboration through the Erasmus+ Programme and in contributing to the integration, competitiveness and comprehensive modernisation of the European Education Area. In addition, participation in the Programme will contribute to fostering mobility and cooperation not only in Europe but also in other geographical areas that are significant for the operational environment of TUAS.