

## Erasmus policy statement

*Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 char)*

a) Teaching at UTA, being a traditional and public research university, is based on research. Therefore, all mobility activities are also linked with research and teaching collaboration. Decisions on degree programme specific agreements are taken on School level since the Schools possess the best academic knowledge on most active research links and similar research and teaching profiles in their specific fields, thus giving the Schools the opportunity to utilise their own networks and ensure the quality of their partners. University-level partners are chosen to correspond to UTA's profile and to needs of students and staff. UTA's profile accentuates research and teaching on society and health, whereas the Schools have defined their own research strengths.

Special attention is paid to the quality of teaching and research at partner institutions as well as their offer of teaching in foreign languages. Successful partnerships are based on reciprocity, balance of mobility and mutual interest. Ideally, long-term partnerships are implemented in terms of mobility as well as in research and teaching collaboration, covering all three cycles.

b) Geographical and linguistic coverage is taken into account when selecting partner institutions. UTA has not defined any geographical priorities for partnerships. However, emphasis on past collaboration has been on Nordic and European countries as well as on the leading science country United States. A strong European emphasis prevails; European mobility still accounts for more than half of all UTA's outgoing student mobility and two thirds of incoming student mobility. The current focus has shifted to BRIC countries, which shows also in the number of new initiatives for collaboration. UTA aims at developing strategic international partnerships with a maximum of three partners on university level, some of them located preferably in the BRIC countries. Among the BRIC countries, UTA has had the most active and established connections with Russia and China. In contrast, new links to India and Brazil are sprouting, in addition to the already existing contacts.

According to its internationalisation strategy, UTA has the intention of establishing a sponsorship scheme for a higher education institution located in a developing country. The capacity building actions in the Programme are used to support the university sponsorship.

c) UTA's objective is to increase the mobility of teachers as well as the mobility of students in all cycles. The target ratio of mobile students is at 40 per cent compared to the cohort of the annual intake of new students in first and second cycles. In the third cycle, all doctoral students are expected to include mobility periods into their degrees. As for teaching staff mobility, it is expected to double during the Programme period. Mobility Actions to Third Countries, the new activities in the Programme, offer further potential for UTA to meet the increased student and staff mobility targets.

An internationalisation module was introduced in UTA's new degree programmes as of 2012, in order to increase the visibility of international competence gained through studies and to encourage students to complete a mobility period. Attention is paid increasingly to the quality aspect of the mobility, in

comparison to the quantity. For instance, the planning of the mobility period will be more systematic when an electronic Personal Study Plan tool, including an electronic Learning Agreement, is taken into usage in the coming academic year.

UTA participates actively in the development of joint and double degrees. Currently, three international Master's degree programmes are offered in collaboration with European and international partner institutions, one of them being an Erasmus Mundus Master course. In these programmes, the degrees awarded are either joint or double degrees. In two further programmes, students are given the possibility to obtain double degrees when completing a mobility period at the partner institution. In addition, two international Master's degree programmes are conducted jointly with national partner institutions, leading to a degree awarded by one of the partners.

Joint programmes are regarded as a means to deepen and intensify existing collaboration to next level, which is both welcomed and encouraged within UTA. Joint European Master courses are also a means to raise the attractiveness of Finnish and European higher education among third countries and to provide Finland and Europe with highly qualified labour force. The funding available in the Programme for Joint Master Degrees is taken into account when developing joint programmes.

*If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organization and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 char)*

UTA's objective is to utilise current non-EU inter-institutional partnerships both in Key Activity 1 and in Key Activity 2. Simultaneously, EU partnerships are further strengthened in the same key activities, the focus being in the quality of mobility and accessibility of mobility for all learners and staff. Long-term plans are drafted with regard to particular country slots, in order to be able to apply for cooperation projects implemented under the Programme.

The establishment of the current organization to promote internationalisation within the University enhances possibilities for networking and good practices across UTA's Schools. The Centre facilitates and coordinates planning, drafting and submitting applications for international projects in teaching and training. UTA's Research Services offer services related to research funding but also support the project management and reporting of teaching and training related projects.

Participating in international cooperation projects serve the purpose of global responsibility and provides tools for quality assurance and better leadership. When developing strategic partnerships with a maximum of three carefully selected partner institutions, UTA will engage in Strategic Partnership Projects funded by the Programme, which will be able to target e.g. the following areas highlighted in UTA's current strategy. When renewing the curricula of the degree programmes, their quality and labour market relevance are reviewed based on feedback and surveys conducted among students and the current labour market needs. In 2012, UTA introduced new competency-based degree programmes, with definitions of learning outcomes for each course unit, study module and degree, thus fostering the employability of graduates. Furthermore, UTA's strategy stresses the importance of pedagogical skills when recruiting, advancing and remunerating teaching personnel. All of these are topics for potential projects.

*Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernization of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 char)*

UTA is Finland's biggest provider of university education in the fields of public administration and social sciences. In line with its strategic priorities, UTA educates internationally competent experts with labour market relevant transferable skills. The Programme consists of an excellent range of activities for learning mobility of individuals, which provides UTA with ample opportunities to internationalise its students and staff towards the above-mentioned objective. UTA embraces new activities in the Programme concerning third countries, raising the potential for growth in mobility.

In 2012, UTA carried out substantial curricular reforms and re-structured all degree programmes, according to the principles of the Bologna process. In the framework of the Programme, UTA strives to improve the curriculum development further, in terms of structures, systems and content, in cooperation with its EU and non-EU partners. Developing innovative and flexible learning environments is a particular area of interest for project collaboration, with the aim of enabling different groups of learners to proceed in their studies in adaptable manner.

UTA's strategy underlines the quality of teaching, which is ensured by offering academic staff members opportunities for professional development. Several measures, e.g. tenure tracks, centres of excellence, a science award, university pedagogical training, best teacher award, are currently used and could be further improved in international collaboration, in order to strengthen the competence and motivation of academic staff. To enhance the recruitment and working conditions of researchers, UTA commits itself to creating an open, sustainable and attractive environment for researchers and transparent recruitment and appraisal procedures, by applying for an HR Excellence in Research logo.

Many of the focal points for development mentioned above are best realised through Strategic Partnerships. Furthermore, joint/double degree programmes conducted with strategic partners serve as a platform for intensive and innovative collaboration and development.

Competency-based curricula, work placements, mentoring programme and career counselling are tools UTA deploys to improve the employability of its graduates. International graduates are regarded as valuable labour force by Tampere region. UTA collaborates closely with other HEIs in Tampere and several local and regional actors, e.g. City of Tampere, Council of Tampere Region, Baltic Institute of Finland, Regional Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Tampere Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as local and regional enterprises. UTA's objective is to apply for funding to establish a Knowledge Alliance with regional stake-holders to promote the higher education – business cooperation and the knowledge transfer infrastructure as well as to create regional hubs of excellence. These aims target the strategic goal of diversifying UTA's funding base.