

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy) of the Novia University of Applied Sciences 2014-2020

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 characters)

Novia University of Applied Sciences offers multidisciplinary higher education with a practical orientation, training professionals for expert and development posts based on the requirements of working life and its development, on scientific research and artistic principles. Novia is the largest Swedish-speaking UAS in Finland with about 4000 students and a staff workforce of 380 in five campuses in Vaasa (2), Turku, Raseborg and Jakobstad.

Novia's internationalization strategy is included in the Novia 2015 strategy and the Pedagogy Strategy. Our main goal is to strengthen internationalization by increasing mobility, focusing on Internationalization at Home and increasing the number of courses offered in English.

a) Novia works towards an ecologic, economic and social sustainable development of society and strives to build up long-term relationships with existing partners in order to strengthen co-operation.

Decisions to enter or renew bilateral Erasmus mobility agreements are taken by the Degree Programme concerned in order to attain best academic compatibility, and the agreements are signed by the Head of International Relations. Inter-institutional agreements with non-participating countries as well as agreements covering the whole UAS are signed by the President. We aim for a balanced mobility geographically and with regards to covering all our fields of study. Partners are selected with regards to quality standards and mutual suitability for students and staff. Whenever possible we expand bilateral agreements with current partners to cover additional study areas.

b) Our geographical focus areas are the Nordic Countries, the Baltic Sea Region, Europe, and China. Novia UAS has a national responsibility within higher education offered in Swedish in Finland and thus a special mission is to respond to the special workforce demands and challenges in the Swedish-speaking and bilingual coastal areas of Finland. Being a Swedish-speaking UAS, Novia has an established position when it comes to cooperation within the Nordic countries. Novia is active in the Erasmus programme and strives to build up a strong network of strategically important partner institutions throughout Europe. Novia has established long-term relationships with HEIs in China: in the Fujian Province and in Shanghai.

c) Novia will work towards increased student and staff mobility according to the objectives of Key Action 1. Currently 80% of incoming and about 50% of outgoing student mobility takes place within the Erasmus programme and we aim to increase the number by close cooperation with existing partners and careful selection of new partners. As mobility to and from non-participating countries is included in the Programme, we intend to initiate and develop exchange programs with our current partners in China. We promote staff, student and traineeship mobility at Bachelor-level as the majority of Novia's students study in the second cycle.

The curriculum in each degree programme is developed to enable students to participate in 3 months study mobility or practical training periods abroad to comply with the targets set by the Ministry of Culture and Education in Finland as well as to the rules of the Programme. Teaching is developed in order to support interaction between incoming and home students. The number of courses offered in English to local and incoming students is increased.

Novia encourages academic and administrative staff to participate in mobility within HEIs and to organizations and enterprises as a means of personal and professional development. Novia supports staff mobility by assisting with partner search and practical arrangements. Mobility reports are available on our intranet for information and promotion to fellow staff members.

Novia intends to invite staff from partner HEIs and enterprises to participate in teaching as a means to promote internationalization at home and to strengthen co-operation with existing and new partners.

Novia plans Bachelor-level double degree programmes in the fields of business administration, engineering and natural resources with 1-3 Erasmus partner institutions and with 1 HEI in non-participating countries.

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 characters)

Novia aims at long-term cooperation with HEIs, enterprises and education and research institutions.

In accordance with the objectives of Key Action 2, Novia will form strategic partnerships and participate in international projects that enhance the quality of education, especially within our focus areas: 1) Sustainable energy technology, 2) Natural Resource management, 3) Health and living conditions of the elderly 4) Ship simulation and 5) Art, Health and Welfare.

Projects including mobility that are initiated around a theme or subject area at degree programme level are carried out by academic staff with administrative support from the International Relations Office. Short term international projects, such as intensive courses with HEIs, are seen as an important instrument for Internationalization at Home, and students and staff are encouraged to participate.

International research projects are carried out and administered by the R&D department.

Major international cooperation projects require resources and Novia will actively apply for external funding.

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 Modernization Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)*

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe need

In order to increase the number of graduates by reducing drop-out, Novia has appointed student counselors at each campus to support all students in their studies.

Non-traditional learners are offered single course or part-time studies in our Open University of Applied Science. Credits earned will be recognized and transferred for students who later are admitted to Novia UAS as regular degree students.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

Our aim is to offer a qualitative higher education adapted to the globalized working life and further education tailored to customer needs. We aim to have a strong regional connection based on continuous interactive cooperation with strategically important partners.

Practical training is a compulsory part of the studies at Novia. Students may opt to do their internship or write their final thesis in a regional, national or international enterprise or organization, which often leads to employment after graduation. Our close co-operation with working life is permanently present in our daily activities and in attuning curricula to labour market demands.

Developing double degree programmes with existing partners will enhance the professional development of our students and give them competence to work in multicultural and global environments.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

Novia will carry out surveys in order to analyze the main obstacles to mobility, thus giving us important feedback for improving current communication and support systems for incoming and outgoing students.

Novia will continue to promote and make use of the ECTS for the students to attain full recognition of studies abroad.

Our view on the use of students' own learning environments and channels (e.g. You Tube and social media) will be developed and we strive to create new international learning environments by mobility, internationalization at home and virtual mobility.

4. Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

Novia strives to foster entrepreneurial skills and attitudes and offer courses in entrepreneurship. Partnership with enterprises like Ramboll enables us to develop new learning opportunities. The agreement enables students to do their internship in one of Ramboll's regional, national or global unit or write their final thesis for

the company. This cooperation is beneficial for students and staff alike and strengthens the future vision of the unique cross-scientific strength and potential we have when it comes to co-operation with working life on both a regional and a global level.

Novia is a share-holder of the Giga Mare Inc. offering education within the maritime cluster in the Philippines. The ownership is seen as a strategic means to promote internationalization and strengthen our position in Asia.

Staff is offered the possibility of in-house training in companies. Staff from enterprises is invited to teach at Novia.

5. Improving governance and funding

Novia strives to diversify the funding for HEIs by actively applying for external project funding, i.e. within Nordplus, Erasmus, First or similar programmes within or beyond EU.

