

Aalto University Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-27

Internationalization strategy

Aalto University wishes to participate in all of the programme activities. Participating in the Erasmus programme in general is expected to enable mobilities, individuals' competence development and internationalization of the campus community. It is expected to increase the global visibility of the university, as well as increase international mobility and networking opportunities of students and staff. Global visibility is expected to also ease the recruitment of excellent students for degree studies. An overall internationalization of the campus allows for multicultural study environments, wider possibilities for students who are not going for physical international mobility, and opportunities to learn to work in diverse, international teams.

In KA 1 activities, making global competencies a part of every student's learning outcomes is an important objective for Aalto University. Also, faculty members are offered an access to training in multicultural competence, which Erasmus mobilities complement very well. Investing in strong partnerships can be facilitated with the Erasmus programme, for example by pooling resources with members of strategic alliances. Keeping the international dimension of our activities on the agendas on all levels is supported by Erasmus activities.

Aalto's aim of broadening its revenue base through international collaboration includes Erasmus programme funding. The value of mobility is in developing global competences, strengthening research cooperation, improving the content and quality of teaching and learning new service practices. All in all, participating in the Erasmus Programme is well aligned with Aalto University's internationalisation and modernisation strategy.

Building joint programmes (Erasmus Mundus) are seen as key activity for profound and fruitful educational partnership where increasing the employability of the Mundus programme graduates is strongly supported. The Mundus programmes offer their students an excellent experience of working and studying in multiple countries in an international environment, getting to know European culture and life, and building abilities to create and work in multinational and multilingual environments.

The European University initiative is one of Aalto University's policy objectives toward building a European Education area with KA2 activities. UNITE! – the University Network for Innovation, Technology and Engineering – targets to create a bottom-up network of universities across Europe which will enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries and which contributes to the international competitiveness of European universities.

UNITE! leads the transformation of European higher education with innovative and multidisciplinary education, research, and entrepreneurship in co-creation by students and staff. It aims at bridging the gaps between engineering, science,

technology and the grand challenges of society. The network aims at becoming a role model for a European inter-university campus (virtual and physical) which is embedded in a network of innovative regions.

Participating in the Erasmus programme KA2 and KA3 activities gives Aalto University an opportunity to strengthen its ties with certain close partners and peers and continue successful research and educational collaboration with both familiar and new partners, who may not, for many reasons, be suitable for student mobility. Erasmus projects build partnerships and collaboration with other sectors of cultural activity and prominent actors in the field.

Different collaboration projects support the development of teaching materials and methods on emerging fields such as art and robotics and allow the transfer of research results into teaching contents and methodologies. These projects also allow junior teachers and researchers to get experience in managing international projects and help develop their teaching skills with diverse groups. Also, administrative staff have the possibility develop their global competences and understanding of different managerial systems and practices. The projects also enhance the global competences for students, who cannot participate in mobility, by offering them international study experiences at home and build their international networks.

The Erasmus Without Paper initiative is well-aligned with Aalto University's goal of digitalization of services. Our priority projects focus on developing student services and data-driven operations. Under the Digital Aalto umbrella, there are altogether over 50 projects leading us towards our target - to be a leading European university concerning digitalisation research and practice.

Aalto University's participation in Erasmus+ activities

The strategic objective that guides all internationalization activities is for Aalto University to become an increasingly multicultural research and teaching community where international mobility is a natural part of the community members' daily lives. The vision of Aalto for 2030 is that as an internationally recognized, high quality university, Aalto has played a major role in transforming Finland into a more multicultural society. Internationalization is understood as a way to enrich and diversify the academic community and to build our staff and students' global competence. For Aalto University, internationalization and thus participation in the Erasmus programme, is about furthering the quality of education, research, and artistic output. They act as tools for societal impact globally and making a meaningful contribution to the Finnish society. Internationalization involves sustainability development goals and global responsibility.

For global competence development of students, faculty and staff, Aalto University considers it important to set targets and indicators which relate to individual's learning outcomes, description of global competences, possibilities for a study period abroad, and activities for internationalization at home. These possibilities are, including application guidelines and funding opportunities are promoted openly on

the university websites, and in info sessions for potential participants. For collaborative project opportunities as well as student and staff mobility participants, we offer specialised services to support their participation in these activities.

The expected results from participating in the Erasmus programme activities include Aalto contributing to societal impact both locally and globally. By enabling mobilities for all, we intend to make global competencies a part of every student's learning outcomes. All faculty members have access to training in multicultural competence. Student and personnel mobility is supported and expected. Promoting staff mobility is one of the key areas of development in the Erasmus programme within Aalto. The number of staff mobilities has been rising steadily as a result of vigorous promotion activities and digitized application process and the objective is to support this trend in order to boost the personnel's global competences' development.

With the European University initiative's UNITE! project, the objectives by 2025 are intensified mobility and exchange with quality educational and cultural experience supported by simple and efficient administrative processes, support of student integration at the member universities, and proficiency in local languages. Open and inspiring mobility avenues attract talented students and researchers, who will boost the competitiveness and global impact of the European economies. Collaborative initiatives for staff mobility are expected to facilitate novel joint actions in teaching, learning and doctoral education, and support the development of mobility and further administrative services. For Aalto, fruitful cooperation to develop European Lifelong learning in line with the Vision 2030 set for Finnish Universities, is expected.

During the next Erasmus programme, the objective is to target the strongest partners in every area, discipline or theme. Life-long learning modules and summer school activities expand the Aalto offers to new audiences internationally. The outputs from Aalto participating in the Erasmus programme include the digitalization of Erasmus processes and the development of a virtual campus, aligned with Aalto's goal to be one of the trailblazers of digitalization in European higher education. By educating globally competent graduates, Aalto provides for a regional impact and supports business development.

The envisaged impact of Aalto's participation in the Erasmus+ Programme

The expected impacts from participating in the Erasmus programme activities include Aalto contributing to societal impact both locally and globally. By enabling mobilities for all, we intend to make global competencies a part of every student's learning outcomes. All faculty members have an access to training in multicultural competence. Student and personnel mobility are expected to become an everyday practise within the university community. As a result our partners become more visible on our campus. The Erasmus programme activities impact the whole of student and personnel populations of Aalto University as well as the partnering institutions' communities. Indirectly the Erasmus projects may also benefit the regional and national stakeholders, such as industry partners. Participation in the programme also delivers Aalto international visibility and attractiveness as a partner. According to the vision 2030, Aalto's main campus is the heart of a globally

recognised, multidisciplinary ecosystem that attracts talent, collaborators and investors globally.

Mobility support services are located near the students and staff and provide advising through the mobility experience from transparent application procedures, e-applications, timely grants payments to orientation sessions and recognition support. Information on the housing, language support, study options, healthcare and safety, insurances, immigration and grading system is provided for both the outgoing and the incoming students. The students' rights and obligations are made clear to them before the mobility. We are also developing new ways of internationalization. For example, piloting short mobilities in the European University initiative UNITE! is a possibility to develop new mobility options available for students who are not able to participate in longer mobilities. Regarding the indicators for student and staff mobility, Aalto concentrates on developing its customer-centric support services and processes to make the mobility experience a rewarding possibility for all participants during the next Erasmus programme.

Measuring the diversity of the participants is followed by the participation of student and staff members with disabilities and participants with diverse backgrounds. The quality of the mobility experiences and their support services is monitored based on the EU Surveys and Aalto mobility reports submitted by the participants. Students' exchanges are supported through flexible credit transfer and scholarship systems. Based on the feedback from the EU Survey results, Aalto University aims at improving the availability of the course catalogue for the incoming students, as well as focusing more attention on the integration of the incoming students, as well as catering to both incoming and outgoing students' personal needs.

The number of staff mobilities is an indicator that testifies partially for the intercultural competence development of staff. Based on the feedback from the EU Survey results, more attention will be paid toward the recognition of the mobilities within Aalto University. The quality of the support services is developed with partner universities in continuous cooperation. In selecting partners to accommodate student mobility, Aalto University follows a criterion, where the partner's academic quality, suitability of curriculum and course offerings (vis-à-vis credit transfer), language of instruction and service structure are evaluated. Mobilities are carried out according to prior agreements between institutions.

In the Erasmus Mundus programmes their attractiveness and programme outcomes (application statistics, number of graduates, patents, start-ups, publications, employment rate of graduates, etc) are followed closely. Aalto University has signed the international Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Accord as the first Finnish university. By signing the Accord Aalto University commits to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as part of its teaching, research, innovation activities, and campus development. When it comes to targets and indicators in monitoring global responsibility and sustainable development, Aalto is in the process of defining its goals and the action plan for reaching the goals.

Aalto University's codes:

Erasmus ID code SF ESPOO12

PIC code 991256096