

The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (UASUA) has an internationalization strategy, both on corporate and on school level, including the following overall statements:

- An international dimension is to be included into all strategic decisions of UASUA.
- Whenever appropriate and possible, internationalization aspects are integrated into the curricula. This includes increasing the supply of courses in English language or English language development programs as well as slots for exchange semesters abroad.
- Student mobility (both for study semesters and/or internships) and faculty mobility will be constantly increased.
- Appropriate events (summer schools, International Weeks, international guest lecturers ...) serve as a means to make the international orientation of all schools clearly visible ("Internationalisation at Home").
- The acquisition of regular students from abroad will be actively pursued. This requires the development of internationally competitive, high-quality programs, also, but not exclusively, in English teaching language.
- Strategic partnerships with other universities, research organizations, government agencies, service centres and with partners in industry, business, health and social institutions will be fostered and improved qualitatively.
- All faculty members of the UASUA are motivated and supported to actively participate in international research programs and projects, and attend conferences.

#### Choosing partners:

Each of the four schools of UAUAS has its own partner network according to their different fields in research and teaching. Partner selection is primarily based on the strategic fit of institutions with respect to curricula and research activities. If synergies can be raised, contracts are concluded with more than one school or with all schools (corporate partnerships). The quality of potential partner institutions is estimated by checking their national or international accreditations, research output and faculty qualification. The partner network is evaluated on a regular (yearly) basis as well as prior to scheduled prolongations of agreements. If there is a strong imbalance in mobility and little chances can be seen to be balanced out again in the upcoming period, contracts are not prolonged.

#### Geographic Areas:

Geographic considerations do play a role in the management of the partner network. The European Union is a strategic region for UASUA, with the aim of significantly participating in the European higher education environment. In a global perspective, the development of economic situations as well as our stakeholders' development plans play a role in advancing the expansion of UASUA's university networks. The main objective within these areas is to build up competences and capacity for future development.

#### Objectives and target groups of mobility activities:

Student mobility takes place in the first (undergraduate) and in the second (graduate) cycle, partly on a voluntary basis, while some programmes include a compulsory semester abroad. The main objective is to expose the students to different cultural environments, as well as different teaching, learning and working concepts. Training language skills forms a third goal of student mobility.

Faculty mobility takes place mostly in the form of short-time visits of up to two weeks. The main objectives lie in exchanging knowledge with colleagues, experiencing different cultural settings and teaching methods. Experience in teaching in foreign (mostly English) languages helps to internationalize classroom activities at the home institution. Faculty members are also encouraged to present their research work at international conferences in order to increase the university's scientific impact.

Members of the university administration participate in staff mobility activities to exchange knowledge, establish and maintain contacts to their counterparts in other universities and to improve their language skills. Additionally, different methods of administrating higher education institutions can be evaluated and possibly adapted to the home institution.

UASUA is engaged in several double diploma activities. The main objective of these activities lies in closer and more intensive collaboration with strategic partners by fostering joint activities among faculty members of both institutions. Mobility of both students and faculty is herewith structured and improved. So far, UASUA does not run international joint diploma programmes, however, emerging opportunities and offerings are carefully evaluated.

The UASUA fosters quality mobility with their partner institutions for staff and students. UASUA is planning to implement strategic partnerships to increase long term cooperation with their partners (HEIs, enterprises and other institutions) in order to contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education and to promote cross sector cooperation with the other educational sectors. The participation in this action should result in the transfer, development and implementation of innovative practices at institutional, local and regional level.

Building knowledge alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises promoting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship by offering relevant learning opportunities are one of our objectives for the future. As an university of applied sciences, we maintain strong ties with industry and enterprises and our focus is to intensify these ties on the European level. UASUA already uses and intends to increasingly use its network with European as well as Non-European universities to develop and conduct international cooperation and capacity building projects between HEIs in order to support improving the level of competences and skills in the participating countries and and to increase the quality of higher education in the partner countries and at home.

#### Increasing attainment levels:

Financial support provided by Erasmus mobility funding helps UASUA students from lower income groups to collect international experience and knowledge. Through mobility programmes, UASUA's faculty members have access to an increased number of attractive, mind-opening research ideas which make our research activities become more international.

#### Improving the quality and relevance:

Upper Austria is an export region and therefore needs employees being skilled and experienced in an international environment. Erasmus mobility programmes equip UASUA's students with these skills, hence enabling them to better perform in a globalised and internationally networked working environment. Staff exchange allows UASUA faculty members to get acquainted to different methods in didactics and teaching methods, thus helping to improve and enrich our teaching approaches to the benefit of better knowledge transmission. Within UASUA's double degree programmes, a greater variety of study modes is more likely to be professionally established, like e.g. distance education, modular learning, hence contributing to an international orientation of the institution as a whole.

#### Quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation:

Cross-border co-operation (within EU or with outside partners) stimulates the development of state-of-the-art curricula. UASUA faculty members continuously discuss curricula adaptations, improvements, and new teaching-methods during their mobility periods. By cross-border cooperation, the intake from Non-EU applicants is increasing and quality talents and future employees can be attracted. Building "mobility windows" into UASUA's curricula and eliminating barriers for students to engage in international exchange is stated as an overall goal of UASUA's internationalisation strategy.

#### Knowledge triangle:

By means of UASUA's international internship programme, connections to companies and universities are utilized to match requests of international internship seeking students with the demand of Austrian businesses, hence serving as a platform to connect students' applications and companies' needs. Upper Austrian Government's local and regional development plan is integrated in UASUA's network extension strategy, thus securing streamlined internationalization paths of the University and the local government.

#### Impr.governance and funding:

UASUA has well established financial controlling and accounting systems to identify real costs of all performance units, ie teaching, R&D and administration. 40% of the UASUA's annual budgets is predominantly covered by funding of the Federal State of Upper Austria, additionally a lower contribution is made by local authorities and third party funds. The Erasmus funding enables the UASUA to further increase internationalisation and to develop intercultural understanding and foster international sensibility