

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT INCLUDED IN THE APPROVED APPLICATION FOR ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (ECHE) 2021-2027

Q: What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

Uniarts Helsinki is an open meeting place for the arts and a critical university community for bold reformers and experts of tradition, based at the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy and Theatre Academy. Our aim is to represent the highest global standard and to be one of the most internationally appealing centres of arts education and research.

Internationalisation is embedded into the strategic aims of Uniarts Helsinki. Art is seen as a basic right and something that contributes to a meaningful life. Art, artistic thinking and creativity are tools that help us build an equal and sustainable world. Graduates from Uniarts Helsinki change the world as artists, researchers and experts. Our students discover their own potential as artists and influencers, and don't shy away from their responsibility.

Through the implementation of Erasmus activities, Uniarts Helsinki seeks to achieve its strategic aims. Erasmus cooperation helps us to develop the quality of education and to promote the social impact of the university.

One of the strategic aims of the university is to advance experimental forms of collaboration, which result in new ways of thinking, education-related innovations and research topics. Participation in international cooperation projects (Erasmus Key Action 2) will support this aim. As Uniarts Helsinki is a European pioneer forum for arts, education and research, it is expected to have an active role in European projects. We are looking for possibilities that enable the university to enhance strong interaction between the arts, education and research, and promote its quality and social impact.

Uniarts Helsinki is well networked, working actively in cooperation with its partner universities. Uniarts Helsinki has an active advocacy role through main European networks of higher education institutions in the field of arts, such as ELIA (European League of Institutes of art) and AEC (Association Européenne des Conservatoires). Participation in the Erasmus+ programme will give tools to develop the already existing cooperation even further. This work strengthens the development of the European Higher Education Area in the field of arts.

In addition to an active role in the development of the European Higher Education Area, Uniarts Helsinki carries its global responsibility by supporting capacity building with its partner universities in less privileged countries. This is possible through the participation of the Erasmus International Credit Mobility scheme.

The university's long history in international cooperation and a well-working organisational structure ensures the successful implementation of Erasmus activities during the 2021-2027 programme period.

Q: Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

According to Uniarts Helsinki's strategy, we develop our degree programmes by utilising international networks, the strong reputation of our academies, and our unique profile, which is characterised by a dialogue between the arts and related research. We increase our international impact and the competitiveness of our programmes in the global education sector.

International activities and collaboration are seen as tools for development. In joint projects (Key Action 2) as well as through individual exchanges, both parties will develop their practices, which ensure further development of education and its competitiveness. Participation in diverse Erasmus activities directly supports the objectives stated in the university's strategy. Within the new Erasmus programme, Uniarts

Helsinki continues to engage in collaboration and development projects as well as in all actions in student, teacher and staff mobility.

The strategic development of research at the University of the Arts Helsinki involves the creation of international networks. As part of its EU research strategy, Uniarts Helsinki is preparing a multi-disciplinary consortium for the European Universities initiative (Key Action 2), focusing on artist education and its research.

Erasmus Student Mobility (SMS) periods improve the students' artistic and intercultural competences and contribute to their employment prospects. We are committed to strengthening individual study paths and making it possible for all our students to have an internationalisation period in their studies. Furthermore, Student Traineeship (SMP) periods offer our students a unique opportunity to create professional networks outside Finland and further develop their working life skills. Through the Erasmus mobility actions, we offer our students a chance to apply their skills in various contexts during studies and find employment as experts even outside the arts sector. Incoming student mobility creates internationalisation opportunities for local students at home and diversifies the student community.

Teacher Mobility (STA) contributes equally to internationalisation at home. It enriches the study environment, but also opens up new student mobility possibilities. Through reciprocal teaching visits and encounters with colleagues, teachers develop their pedagogical skills, broaden their views and gain tools to deal with challenges in their everyday work.

Through Staff Training Mobility (STT), we aim to increase skills, understanding and internationalisation of administrative and pedagogical staff. A carefully planned staff mobility period benefits the individual staff members, as well as the work community in both home and host institutions.

Student and staff mobility within the European Higher Education Area is the most active and prominent part of Uniarts Helsinki's Erasmus activities. In addition, we are committed to continuing cooperation with our partner institutions in Brazil and Georgia and to exploring opportunities of cooperation with other partner countries through the International Credit Mobility (Key Action 107) programme.

The quality of project and mobility activities is continuously monitored, especially in terms of non-discrimination, equal and equitable access, inclusion and equal treatment in all academic and service matters. We engage in a language policy that supports internationalisation.

Q: What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Currently, approximately 25-30% of Uniarts Helsinki students undertake an international mobility period during their studies. Despite the trend of decreasing mobility numbers in Finland, our aim is to carefully increase the current mobility numbers with both programme and partner countries.

According to the EU Surveys, our mobile students are very satisfied with the quality of their mobility period. We will ensure that the high quality of mobility activities is maintained throughout the programme period.

In addition to mobility periods, Uniarts Helsinki offers possibilities for internationalisation at home with the help of the Erasmus scheme e.g. through incoming exchange students, who have an impact on the international learning environment. Furthermore, a very important input for maintaining an international learning environment is provided by visiting teachers in the form of master classes, intensive courses, workshops and individual tutoring.

Internationalisation opportunities abroad and at home have a great impact on the students' future by improving their professional and intercultural skills and competences needed in working life. The international networks created during studies can be useful throughout their working life and artistic practice. Thus, the impact of student and teacher mobility is long-lasting and can provide life-long assets for the participants.

Uniarts Helsinki was selected as a *Best Practice* university in Erasmus mobility in the 2017-2018 academic year by the Finnish National Agency. During the past academic years, both quality and quantity of exchange periods have consistently been excellent, and Uniarts Helsinki has also received highly positive reviews both from outgoing and incoming students and teachers. It is also noteworthy that when comparing Finnish universities and how successfully students can transfer most of their credits at their home university after an exchange period, Uniarts Helsinki is at the top of the list. In addition, Uniarts Helsinki was well above the national average in terms of the incoming students' integration in the community (76% considered that they integrated either well or very well with the local students).

During the 2021-2027 programme period, we are committed to maintaining this high quantity and quality of student, teacher and staff mobility. By maintaining the existing high standards when qualifying incoming students and selecting suitable exchange destinations for our outgoing students, the exchange periods become meaningful, and students gain additional competences that are valuable to them.

Based on the university's strategy, the received feedback and the results of the self-assessment, we identify the following targets for mobility actions during the new Erasmus programme period:

- Maintaining and carefully increasing the quantity of mobility periods
- Increasing participation of doctoral students, especially through short-term mobility options
- Maintaining the high satisfaction of students and staff with their Erasmus experiences
- Improving the availability of updated course catalogues for incoming students when preparing the Learning Agreements
- Improving the recognition of the mobility periods for teachers

The involvement of Uniarts Helsinki in cooperation projects (Key Action 2) is carefully considered and planned. The decisions are based on the strategic aims for international cooperation and the expected outcomes. The impacts on participating students and staff will be considered before commitment.

In addition, Uniarts Helsinki will allocate resources in order to work on the new targets of the Erasmus programme, such as:

- widening participation of different, less mobile groups of students and staff
- introducing blended mobility
- enhancing environmental practices and digitalisation of administration.

The expected impacts and outcomes shall promote peer-learning and institutional development and always be in line with the values of the ECHE, such as sustainability, equity, integration, and non-discrimination.