



Erasmus Policy Statement

International (EU and non-EU) Strategy

The institutional policy of University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Leiden puts internationalization on the educational agenda as an integral part of the curriculum. Primary aim is to give our students as many opportunities as possible to develop international competences and skills, in order to optimize their career opportunities. Focal points are: English-taught minors, internationalized curriculum and internationalization@home, mobility of staff and students, circulation of knowledge and international projects. UAS Leiden opts for cooperation and networking with European and international partners in order to participate in the ongoing international evolution and actions within a multicultural context. The policy aims at acquiring and transferring new knowledge and competences. Our mission is reflected in student and staff mobility, transparent use of ECTS, the support of international educational projects as well as institutional cooperation through internationalization of curricula and internationalization at home. The already existing cooperation with partners in the international higher education area will need more structure and transparency in order to guarantee an efficient and effective use of these contacts. Professionalization of teaching and administrative staff is a particular point of interest. By sending out staff to or receiving staff from partner institutions we create opportunities for further cooperation within the Erasmus program. Students and staff at the home institution get the chance to experience a European dimension as a result of the presence of foreign teachers and students. International events will preferably be implemented as part of the already existing curricula.

Strategy for the organization and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training

Within the organization of UAS Leiden it is the responsibility of each faculty, the respective departments and (applied) research units to initiate and implement international teaching, training or research projects. Policy advisors internationalization at central level are involved in the process of international grant applications, including those of the EU. Each project initiated is expected to have a direct link to and will support either relevant study programs or research domains. UAS Leiden is successfully taking part in the Erasmus+ program and its predecessors and is planning to continue this effort. Our aim for the immediate future is to expand participation in EU-funded activities and obtain funding from other grant programs and their sub-programs as well.

Since more than twenty years UAS Leiden has been active in the field of development cooperation, more specifically in projects for capacity building and institutional development funded by the Dutch Government. Criteria to participate in international projects are diverse, but social engagement and possibilities to connect with the existing educational process are a sine qua non. Other factors that play a role are: the

country/region where the project will take place as well as the regional institution, professionalization of staff, international cooperation educational innovation and cost-efficiency.

Expected impact on modernization

UAS Leiden focuses mainly, but not exclusively, on a regional strategic public as well as industrial partnerships and collaborations. Modernization implies that we have to adapt to the dynamics of the internationally developing labour market. By taking part in the Erasmus+ program UAS Leiden aims to maximize the opportunities for students to develop international academic and professional competences and internationally orientated career opportunities. Applied research is relatively new in the environment of Dutch UAS but once established in this domain UAS Leiden can adopt a strategic long-term aim to further develop its regional and globally orientated applied research activities.

The institutional policy plan which is now being developed at UAS Leiden will pay attention to modernization, more specifically to:

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers which Europe needs:
Participation in Erasmus+ allows development of new intercultural insights on teaching and learning and thus increasing the students' chances of success
2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education:
Society and labour markets require graduates who are capable to function and work within an intercultural and international environment. The Erasmus+ program offers students the possibility to prepare for this future.
3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation:
Teachers are stimulated to cooperate with (international) peers, thus creating an international setting in which students can develop their skills. Outgoing mobility programs allow students to participate in a wider range of subjects, thus enabling them to make the right career choice based on their particular professional ambitions.
4. Making the knowledge triangle work:
We aim to share knowledge and initiate international programs linking regional networks of educational institutions and businesses into an international network.
5. Improving governance and funding:
The criteria of the Erasmus+ program provide a clear framework and regulations for the organization of international activities.

UAS Leiden aims to strengthen academic, exchange and research collaborations with a select number of preferred European HEI's. A broader portfolio of partnerships with (non)EU partners is in the interest of our students and will also be maintained. Where and when possible these priorities will be included in the strategies and policies for international cooperation activities and promotion of teacher and student mobility.