

ERASMUS ERKLÄRUNG ZUR HOCHSCHULPOLITIK

Erasmus Policy Statement

(Abstract from the ECHE application 2021-2027)

Carinthia lies in the heart of Europe and borders with Slovenia and the Italian regions of Trentino, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto in the south. Carinthia is the intersection of three large European language and culture groups. Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (CUAS) also benefits from the diversity of languages and cultures. At the same time, the institution makes an innovation contribution to the economy in its region and beyond. As a university that is firmly anchored in regional industry, CUAS uses the partner networks in research and at the same time supplies the market with highly qualified graduates.

Carinthia University of Applied Sciences has set itself point 4 of Agenda 2030 as its own goal for sustainable development and has defined **inclusive, equal and high-quality education as its top priority and to promote opportunities for lifelong learning for everyone**. In addition to Horizon 2020, the Erasmus program has always been an important tool that has helped CUAS to accelerate and successfully implement important initiatives and research ideas, but also to benefit from international cooperation. For this reason, CUAS aims to continue participating in the program.

The areas of responsibility with regard to internationalization are institutionally diverse and include:

- the **University Management**, who promotes the impulses of the courses and coordinates the implementation thereof;
- The **Rectorate**, which is responsible for internationalization and coordinates the university's activities abroad together with the International Relations Office and the International Committee with its advisory function.
- the **Academic Council**, which, within the scope of the tasks of §10 FHSTG, contributes to the implementation of the internationalization goals at the FH Carinthia.
- the **Program Director**, who implements the internationalization strategy by deciding on the recognition of academic support for incoming and outgoing students abroad. In addition, the course management plans the necessary personnel, time and financial resources for the implementation of the international goals of the course.
- the **International Coordinators** who, together with the head of the program, are responsible for the academic management of mobility.
- the **International Relations Office (IRO)** with its diverse tasks such as the organization of mobility programs, active network maintenance, support and advice for employees. The IRO supports the courses in their internationalization tasks. In addition, the IRO applies for additional Erasmus and other funds to finance mobility projects and sensitizes the other service areas to the topic of international affairs. The IRO works closely with the Quality Management department, among other things in the implementation of double degree programs and the implementation of ECTS criteria and the diploma supplement. It takes also the coordination for general international questions.

Carinthia University of Applied Sciences has set itself the goal of participating in the Erasmus program in order to offer its own graduates a future-oriented and international education through the various possibilities that optimally prepares them for the constantly changing job market. At the same time, intercultural awareness is an essential element of personal development and is the focus of timely and sustainable training. For this reason, CUAS will in future create interesting offers for students in the field of mobility in its various forms (short mobility, blended or virtual mobility, etc.), but also in the field of internationalization @ home, taking advantage of the advantages of digitization.

DIGITALIZATION:

Carinthia University of Applied Sciences offers its students didactically innovative teaching. As mentioned in the renewal agenda, **technology offers new ways to organize and structure learning and teaching, including through open teaching, online learning and blended learning to increase flexibility and interaction between teachers and students to improve**. CUAS strives to follow the trend of digitization and to develop attractive opportunities for learning and teaching through the

development of digital media, in the sense of a learning goal-oriented competence development of the students.

INCLUSION

The perspectives on equality and diversity in society open up new perspectives and thus, also offer sustainable development opportunities and opportunities for Carinthia University of Applied Sciences.

Based on the Diversity Charter, which was signed by CUAS in 2015, equal treatment and equal opportunities for employees at all organizational levels and all students, regardless of age, gender, physical disability, ethnic and national affiliation, religion and sexuality orientation are viewed as the university's goals.

In recognition of diversity, CUAS is committed to mutual acceptance, appreciation and respect and particularly values the advantages and opportunities that diversity offers.

Family-friendliness measures that facilitate the work-life balance or study and family will continue to be implemented.

The infrastructure at the five campuses of CUAS is being redesigned and designed to be barrier-free. The courses offered are also made more flexible in terms of possible mobility.

SUSTAINABILITY

A sustainability officer together with a "Sustainability Working Group" will take over the development, coordination and implementation of all measures as well as a collection of ideas within the framework of the sustainability strategies that have been designed from 2020 onwards. In the first place, an environmentally friendly mobility strategy is drawn up.

INTERNATIONALIZATION and MOBILITIES

Carinthia University of Applied Sciences wants to make its contribution to the implementation of the renewal agenda and ***promotes the international mobility of students, university staff and researchers in order to offer them an opportunity to further develop their experience and skills as well as to encourage cooperation between universities, research and companies strengthen.***

Many and heterogeneous (in terms of the location and form of the target institutions) mobility opportunities are provided for students and employees both in Erasmus program countries (KA131) and some others in partner countries (International Mobility within the framework of KA131 and KA171), on the one hand to promote the intercultural exchange and, on the other hand, to contribute to the personal development of mobile people in the area of intercultural, language and communication skills.

In addition, CUAS endeavors to create joint offers for education, development, advice and other services with national and international universities and the regional economy. CUAS also wants to implement the Modernization agenda by endeavoring to promote ***flexible and modular study programs to support access to higher education.***

In which Erasmus campaigns will Carinthia University of Applied Sciences participate?

The main goal of the CUAS internationalization strategy in the context of the Erasmus activities is to further develop the mobility figures quantitatively and qualitatively. CUAS therefore wants to regularly apply for funding for **Key Action 1** in order to create not only financial incentives but also interesting exchange opportunities for its own students and employees. Since more and more students are considering non-European destinations, in addition to participating in the European University Mobility (KA103), annual participation in international university mobility projects (KA107) is also sought.

It is also the goal of Carinthia University of Applied Sciences to develop closer cooperation with selected universities in the strategically important regions and, if possible, in several fields of study. The guidelines of **Key Action 2** show a path that CUAS would like to follow in order to develop specific projects with selected partners. The financial side of Key Action 2 is an additional incentive to submit applications for the **Cooperation Partnerships** every year.

Carinthia University of Applied Sciences continuously generates new knowledge within the four Schools: Civil Engineering & Architecture, Engineering & IT, Health Sciences & Social Work, and Management and moreover, in many interdisciplinary research groups. CUAS aim is to make this knowledge available to society and usable for business, while at the same time absorbing impulses from the non-university and international world for research and teaching. In order to support the interactive transfer of knowledge, the aim is to enter at least one Innovation Alliance in the period up to 2027.

The goal is that by 2027:

- annual applications for Erasmus+ KA131 are submitted in order to financially support:
 - mobilities within Erasmus countries as well
 - a few international mobilities to the partner countries and
 - mobilities within Blended Intensive Programs.
- mobility flows within the Erasmus KA131 projects with at least 3 partners in partner countries (according to the list at <https://www.fh-kaernten.at/international/partnerhochschulen>) are developed.
- at least two applications for KA171 projects are submitted
- at least 12% of the annual graduates of Carinthia University of Applied Sciences gain international experience abroad (through a semester or internship abroad),
- another 12% benefit from short, blended or virtual mobilities.
- The current high level of Erasmus teaching and staff mobilities (of around 25 people per year) should be maintained. New colleagues will be recruited to participate in the Erasmus + program. The opportunity to take part in a language course or training abroad has been established as part of employee development.
- The Double Degree Program in the Health Management degree program, which has been successfully offered for 5 years, has brought about an increase in internationalization for those students who have stayed at CUAS, thus expanding their international horizons. For this reason, further DDPs were started in the winter semester 2019/20 with TH Köln, Germany and JAMK Finland in the degree program Social Work and with the University of Udine, Italy and TH Köln, Germany in the degree program International Business Management. By 2027, all CUAS Schools should offer at least one double or joint degree program.
- At least 15 international visiting professors and other people with an international reputation are involved in the implementation of the curricula every year.
- Short stays abroad such as summer schools or study trips are and will be built into many curricula.
- The CUAS Buddy Network is to be further expanded so that at least 20 people are included annually as part of the Buddy System or in the form of language tandems.
- The Erasmus Staff Mobility should give employees the opportunity to attend language courses at accredited language schools abroad. This is one of the measures that should lead to more courses in English offered at Carinthia University of Applied Sciences.
- The aim is to prepare and submit at least five applications for strategic partnerships per year.
- International mobility is used for the exchange of employees and students in interesting non-European destinations and consequently the number of generally mobile people is increased.
- Carinthia University of Applied Sciences aims at least one Blended Intensive Program (BIP) application per year in order to offer non-mobile students the opportunity to experience internationalization through this option. The experience of the applications is shared in-house so that other courses can integrate this option into teaching in the future. The option of BIPs seems to be an attractive opportunity for international experience, especially for part-time courses.