



University of Applied Sciences

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014- 2020

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy:

a.) How you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regards to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles).

Broader internationalization of activities is one of the strategic priorities defined in Kauno Kolegija/UAS Integrated Development Strategy until 2020. The underlying values are responsibility, professionalism, openness, respect and sociality. Student and teacher participation in Erasmus programme is highlighted in the plans of all academic units. This activity will be implemented in compliance with Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020. The strategy emphasizes the necessity to create internationalized learning environment, to design study programmes in foreign languages, and to develop multicultural competencies of academic and non-academic staff in order to increase international recognition and attractiveness.

Strategic international partners have to be identified for effective collaboration in delivering the studies, organizing the exchange and conducting applied research and art. The principles of responsible selection of partners will be implemented by means of internal quality assurance system. Kauno Kolegija/UAS collaborates with more than 150 higher education institutions abroad, mostly from European countries, seeking to establish strategic partnerships on institutional, faculty, department or curriculum levels. The faculties and centres are encouraged to set specific collaboration goals and outcomes, focusing on the same level foreign institutions with the highest ranking. Relations with partners, who are parties of inter-institutional collaboration agreements, are revised and strengthened. Internationalization is developed beyond the territory of the European Union. Collaboration with institutions from non-European countries is focused on CIS and Central Asian countries following the national priorities.

Goal oriented participation of students/teachers in international organizations will be encouraged through active communication. The effectiveness of current membership in international organizations will be evaluated and new membership in organizations of strategic interest will be started.

Kaunas Kolegija/UAS aims to become the leader among Lithuanian higher non-university institutions by the number of students going to study a semester or have a work placement abroad and by the number of academic and other staff mobilities. Therefore, we will continue active engagement in exchange programmes, look for new partners, and develop collaboration with current partners by co-designing study programmes, improving the recognition of academic achievements abroad, and strengthen the relationship with foreign companies and organizations to secure places for practical training and internship. We will seek that the teachers would use professional development possibilities in the best European companies and organizations. To this end we will submit project applications to receive funding from European Social Fund and will make use of use of the network of foreign partners. Teacher mobility is included in the provisions of teacher certification as one of the key factors of professional development and assessment.

By 2020 we strive to achieve that student mobility makes 20 per cent of the total number of students with the ratio of incoming and outgoing students 2:1 and to have the best teacher mobility of all Lithuanian colleges.

Academic mobility management is described in Quality and social responsibility management system procedures. Students are selected for mobility following transparent and understandable criteria announced in the website www.kaunokolegija.lt and abiding with the principles of equal opportunities. Mobility will be also increased through active participation of students and teachers in intensive studies under Erasmus and Nordplus programmes or bilateral agreements with partners. Language competencies will be improved in foreign language classes; the number of foreign languages that students may opt to learn will be increased. Measures to develop foreign language competencies of teachers have been envisaged. Successful integration of incoming students into the process of studies at Kauno KolegijaUAS will be ensured through decentralized tutoring system, mentoring, induction weeks, intensive course of Lithuanian language and culture and field trips.

At present first cycle studies for vocational bachelor's degree are delivered in Kauno Kolegija; however our goal is to implement short cycle and second cycle studies for vocational master's degree.

We aim to increase internationalization of our curricula in terms of content and forms: the focus will be placed on international and intercultural learning outcomes to reflect institution's internationalization policy. These goals will be achieved through the adequate curriculum structure, contents and methods as well as improved teaching and learning environment. We will foster employment and career opportunities for our graduates in

international labour market. We will set up joint study programmes with foreign higher education institutions, design international courses, and deliver at least one semester courses in foreign language in each study programme in order to ensure high quality student oriented first and second level studies. By 2020 at least 7 international study programmes will be delivered in foreign language, including 5 joint study programmes.

Your institution's strategy for the organization and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.

Kaunas Kolegija/UAS will continue active participation in international collaboration projects. International projects fostering national and regional needs will be implemented to strengthen the links between education, research and business, applied research and art projects will be carried out with social partners. Priority is given to innovative projects that will add value to our study programmes and strengthen the role and recognition of our institution. Collaboration areas will be prioritized by the work group composed of College community members and project effectiveness evaluation methodology will be designed. International collaboration will be initiated and realized by respective academic units in line with Kauno Kolegija/UAS collaboration guidelines. International relations will be established and maintained with organizations conforming to the activities of Kauno Kolegija/UAS and institutional units, specificity of study programmes, priorities and goals of the institution. Applications for international projects will be developed and funding will be sought by respective work groups.

Teachers will be encouraged to create intensive programme projects and implement them together with students. Such projects present an excellent possibility to boost student mobility, improve study programmes and integrate new aspects that would increase internationalization and multidisciplinary of study programmes. They also enable to create closer relations with business, exchange experience with foreign partners and design joint programmes. Kaunas Kolegija/UAS realizes 12-15 projects per year and will strive to maintain the same scope.

Our goal is to increase the number of projects initiated and coordinated by Kauno Kolegija/UAS, disseminate our best practice to higher education institutions in third countries.

The expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernization of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda¹) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve (max. 3000 characters).

¹ COM (2011)567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)

The goals and objectives of Kauno Kolegija/UAS Integrated Development Strategy until 2020 comply with the priorities of the agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems Modernisation Agenda.

The strategy envisages high-quality competitive higher education studies at several levels in order to **increase attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs**. We will design and deliver short cycle and vocational master's studies, implement integral study modules, provide students with the possibility to choose from different forms and modes of studies, develop prior learning (including non-formal and informal learning) recognition systems and e-learning possibilities to achieve this goal.

We will **improve the quality and relevance of higher education** through internal quality assurance system, effective teaching and learning environment, stronger influence of social and business partners on education quality, developed student career counselling system and monitoring of alumni career paths. We will analyse labour market needs, apply innovative teaching and learning approaches that encourage creativity and entrepreneurship of students and integrate research methods into the study process.

We will strengthen **the quality of studies through mobility and cross-border co-operation** by implementing the policy focused on internationalizing the curriculum and ensuring effective mobility of students and academic staff.

Kauno Kolegija/UAS has a strategic goal to strengthen the links between studies, applied research and art, and the business world. This goal complies with Modernisation Agenda priority of making the knowledge triangle work: **linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development**. We will attempt to integrate applied research and art activities into European Research and Art Area, design and deliver applied research programmes of interest to business, seek effective dissemination of best practice, applied research and art outcomes and integration of college community into public life on the national, regional and local level.

Effective governance and funding will be ensured by bringing together active and professional academic community, developing modern infrastructure and improving the efficiency of college management. Studies will be delivered by professional academic and assisting staff able to work in multicultural environment. Infrastructure for competitive applied research and art activities will be developed and facilities will be fitted to individuals with special needs by realizing the concept of college campus. Optimized organizational structure will ensure the commitment to sustainable development and social responsibility as well as financial sustainability of the institution.