

## Erasmus Policy Statement of the University of Lapland

In its Strategic Plan ULapland 2020, the University defines its vision: By 2020, the ULapland will be an internationally recognized science and art university in the strategic spearhead areas of its profile. The profile of the university encompasses research on Arctic and Northern people, societies, and environment and their interaction as well as international tourism research benefitting the region. In these profile areas the strategic spearheads of expertise are: (1) sustainable development, law, and equity, (2) Northern wellbeing and changing work, and (3) service design. Examined through several criteria, ULapland is one of the most international universities in Finland. This is manifested in education as well as research. The university's Arctic research and education as are widely known internationally. The student and teaching staff mobility numbers are extremely high at the national level. One of the goals is to strengthen the link between the mobility of the teaching and research personnel and the implementation of the targets related to the university's international operations. In addition to traditional research and educational cooperation, the ULapland is engaged in international development work that will also be linked more closely to the implementation of the university's strategy and to its joint objectives.

The university's strategic objective is to further internationalize its research, art activities, and education especially in the areas of its strategic spearheads and to create a stronger and more effective network of collaboration. The objective also includes the regular assessment and active development of collaborative relations. The Internationalization Programme of the ULapland guides the internationalization activities toward its own strategic targets and toward the objectives of the national higher education policy. The University Strategy defines the University of the Arctic network ([www.uarctic.org](http://www.uarctic.org)) as its main strategic partner, based on the Arctic profile of the university. In addition, the university has more than 300 contract-based, international collaboration partners covering student exchange, teacher and researcher exchange, and research cooperation. Based on existing cooperation, twenty of these universities have been named by the University Board as strategic partners, distributed evenly in the following seven strategic geographic areas: Nordic countries, Europe, Russia, North-America, Japan, China and the Rest of the world. Many of these partners are also University of Lapland's partners in the University of the Arctic collaboration. At operational level, strategic international partnerships will be prioritized in researcher and artist mobility.

The participation of teachers and teacher tutors in the planning and implementation of student exchange will be included into the personnel's annual work load. A completed exchange study period is included in a student's personal study plan. It must be ensured already in the planning phase that the exchange is part of the student's degree. The faculties assess the possibilities to convert Master's studies into English and in their preparations observe systematic teacher and researcher exchange, instruction at partner universities, and the possibilities concerning double degrees and summer schools. Teacher mobility is linked more systematically to the planning of teaching. The added value of teacher exchange to researcher collaboration is observed. University students and personnel are given language and culture education that supports mobility and is

required for exchange visits. The aim is that by 2016 the university offers a total of 2,000 credits to be completed in foreign languages. The university allocates resources to personnel training, multicultural groups, and instruction in foreign languages. ULapland is pursuing to prepare students for an international and multicultural operating environment in many ways, eg. Mobility and internationalization at home. Internationality is considered as an integral part of all activities. The integration of foreign and local student is being enhanced actively in collaboration with the local society and the Student Union. The International Relations unit organizes activities through which students, teachers, researchers, and other personnel are activated to promote domestic internationalization.

Project actions and implementation with EU and non-EU partners is serving two purposes that strengthen University of Lapland Strategy implementation. First goal is learning from peers on the latest developments with respect to teaching and training methodology and pedagogics, especially with respect to modernizing teaching methods and delivery. In addition to this we believe that we have significant contributions in the first goal with respect to any project partnership.

Second goal is to strengthen cooperation with bilateral partners - day to day action on projects will increase trust, knowledge and knowhow in both institutions. This in turn leads to better cooperation in all levels between partners. These goals also will increase the attractiveness of the University of Lapland as a project partner. University of Lapland is and will be working on projects with respect to teaching and training in all fields represented in the University. All members of the university society from students to administrative personnel and academic staff are offered a possibility for internationalization. The international mobility is seen as one of the tools to develop also project management in teaching and training. The mobility numbers are extremely high at the national level and a goal is to improve their integration to improve quality at large. Services to support international activities are produced in a centralized manner by the university's International Relations Office and individually by the international coordinators and development managers of the faculties. The services are also produced by the general personnel, researchers, and other support personnel. The faculties' development managers provide assistance in the preparation of international research and development projects. The contractual and other judicial services of projects are centralized.

ULapland is an international, multi-disciplinary university whose areas of expertise include Arctic affairs and tourism research. It has become an important educational institution nationally educating every fourth lawyer, every third university- educated expert in art and design and nearly ten percent of the social scientists. ULapland is one of the most international universities in Finland with every third new student being international. With its international Master Degree Programmes, it is now also providing international graduates for the global job market. International collaboration and its exposure at all levels is seen as one of the strategic priorities of ULapland and a clear prerequisite for quality in education and research. Erasmus plays an important role in achieving this impact. ULapland is a widely recognized provider of basic degrees, postgraduate, and adult education, offering programmes that draw on high-level, multidisciplinary, and internationally networked research and artistic activity. The teachers are experts in different fields of science and art, working with a high degree of pedagogical competent.

ULapland is recruiting its staff and students effectively globally, and the institution's student body and academic staff constitutes a multicultural as well as an artistically and scientifically creative community. The university's strategic objective is to internationalize further its research, art activities, and education especially in the areas of its strategic spearheads and to create a stronger and more influential network of collaboration. All members of the university society are offered a possibility for internationalization. The student and teaching staff mobility numbers are extremely high at the national level and a goal is to improve their integration to improve quality at large. Societal interaction is closely integrated into research, artistic activity, and education, especially in the circumpolar region. It is taking place through a regional, national, and international system of innovation.

ULapland is implementing the Lapland University Consortium's innovation programme in cooperation with the business community, government, and the third sector. By 2016 ULapland aims to increase its share of competed international funding. ULapland defines the strengths of the strategic spearheads of its profile in relation to the contents and implementation of academically competed international sources of funding. ULapland is one of the key actors in the creation of Lapland's Smart Specialization Strategy. In addition, HEI's in Lapland are also creating a new Research and Innovation Strategy. The main priorities and selected emphasis areas are also seeking presence in knowledge and skills Alliance platforms. ULapland is providing an excellent example on transparent and well regulated governance and funding management. This knowhow we also disseminate through international projects to our partner universities and network.