



## LUT University - Erasmus Policy Statement

Clean energy, water and air are life-giving resources for which we at LUT University seek new solutions with our expertise in technology and business. We help society and businesses in their sustainable renewal. Internationalisation is infiltrated to all elements of the LUT strategy, as it is not possible to imagine research and education without internationalisation. Internationalisation is embedded into the institutional strategic planning and communicated to all levels at LUT University. Erasmus+ programme provides an essential cooperation and funding framework for working together with European and non-European partner universities and organisations. Active educational cooperation with high-quality partner network in the form of learning mobility e.g. double degrees and student and staff mobility, is utilizing the solid framework provided by European Education Area (EEA) and contributing to strengthening European identity through education and culture. Erasmus+ partnerships contribute to enhancing the quality of learning and teaching, but also offer complementarity and thus widen the scope of opportunities for students and staff.

The European Student Card Initiative, with Erasmus Without Paper and European Student Card, contributes to high-quality mobility experience abroad and to the digitalisation of the administrative procedures. Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices have provided and will provide an excellent platform for sharing best practices and innovating new ones by bringing together institutions from various corners of the world to support policy development and cooperation.

LUT University is active in implementation of digitalisation. The digitalisation of education has already been emphasized through two strategy periods at LUT University, so we are looking forward to taking the next steps in the digital mobility management. Effective utilization of digital mobility management allows more time and energy to be allocated to content enhancement and support and helps to make mobility experience smoother for students and staff. At LUT University internationalisation possibilities are open to all students and staff and internationalisation is strongly encouraged by the management. Effective implementation of internationalisation is facilitated by active staff participation at all levels. Transparency, equal opportunity and inclusion are key priorities. International Services together with LUT schools provide support for both students and staff. Outgoing students are equipped with guidance and study counselling, intercultural training, as well as with practical advice. Internationalisation is a part of the study period for every student in the form of mobility or internationalisation at home - currently we have about 80 nationalities on campus. Erasmus+ programme facilitates inclusion and participation also for those with fewer opportunities, e.g. by offering top-up grants. Incoming students and staff enrich the LUT community and provide a good opportunity for internationalisation at home also for those students who cannot go abroad for an exchange period. The surrounding community will also benefit from students' civic engagement e.g. by popular initiatives Erasmus+ in schools – programme and Meet a local family -programme.

LUT University and its strategy are strongly committed to finding scientific solutions for the system earth – energy, air, business and water. Becoming a reformer of companies and society and developing open, dynamic and sustainable intercultural campuses are among the key goals of LUT University Strategy 2030. Erasmus+ actions provide essential tools for achieving these goals in cooperation with partner universities and companies.

The core of Erasmus+ mobility activities is student mobility, both studies and placements, being the largest in volume. Erasmus+ mobility makes European Education Area accessible for all students and gives them a possibility to enrich their knowledge and acquire capabilities to be utilized in working life. Working life requires skills to work in multicultural teams, so it is important to get



accustomed and to gain experience in cross-cultural cooperation during the studies. Erasmus+ programme also facilitates inclusion of those with fewer opportunities thus promoting equality. LUT University encourages all students to include an internationalisation element to their studies, either a mobility period or internationalisation at home, and in the future blended mobility is also an option. Erasmus Mundus joint master programs, alongside with double degree programs, take the cooperation between universities a step further.

Staff mobility is an essential part in every university as education and research cannot flourish without extensive international exposure and cooperation. LUT University encourages staff mobility, including teachers and other staff members, to participate in mobility. LUT University arranges an annual call of Erasmus+ mobility grants for teachers and staff and encourages applicants from all staff groups. Practical support for outgoing staff is provided by International Services. Access to mobility periods results in wider understanding and deeper cooperation with partner universities, which benefits both students and staff. Benchmarking and exchange of ideas are of utmost importance for continuous development. Cooperation with partner universities is essential for meeting the LUT strategy objectives which address global challenges: clean energy, water and air. Deepening of partnerships with selected partners is a relevant part of the actions designed to strengthen the impact of education and research. Participation in Erasmus+ calls is based on the needs of LUT schools and their strategy-based actions. Erasmus+ funding is a very important instrument for achieving these targets.

LUT University has created comprehensive support functions for both incoming and outgoing students and staff. LUT International Services coordinate the support functions, provide guidance and practical advice for outgoing students, as well as for incoming students (e.g. advising on accommodation possibilities and other practicalities). The First Year Experience -programme for incoming students gathers various functions of LUT University together and offers smooth integration for newcomers. Support is available by International Services throughout the whole study period. Various language courses are on offer and most incoming students prefer to learn basics of Finnish during their stay. Support for incoming members of staff is provided in cooperation by international services and the hosting school.

Cooperation among organisations and institutions (KA2) provides an excellent possibility to gather the best knowledge and practices available in the world. These theme-based networks provide great innovation potential and offer a platform for emerging economies to promote structural enhancement and development. For example, LUT University has been coordinating "Cooperative eLearning Platform for Higher Education in Industrial Innovation" -project which has a cross-disciplinary approach to innovation and contributes to inclusion. We continue to develop partnerships for innovation to get companies around the world onboard of our educational activities, to generate more strategic cooperation with industry and to revolutionize the current educational practices. Challenge-based education and increasing the amount of business ideas and potential entrepreneurs on campuses are our strategic objectives that we would like to develop with the help of Erasmus+ partnerships for innovation. The new Erasmus+ programme also offers possibilities to engage in student and staff mobility with partner countries, thus advancing new openings in the field of education. Cooperation with partner countries for capacity building purposes is an essential direction for our university and we would like to continue and strengthen cooperation with Asian, Russian and other universities around the world. Participation in Key Action 3 - Support to policy development and cooperation –help our campuses operate under the guiding principles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, increasing social inclusion and gender balance in engineering education.

All the mentioned objectives would be impossible to achieve without European and global cooperation, so therefore the Erasmus+ programme is a vital tool for advancement of the industrialisation and modernisation process at LUT University.

LUT University has actively put an effort to enhance support functions for both home university students and staff, as well as for incoming mobility, both students and staff. The EU Survey report gives a good insight to the current state- of-affairs and thus

provides a useful tool for further development. The catalogue of courses in English is available when the application period for incoming students starts. In this way we aim at providing the latest information for incoming students and thus help them to make well-informed choices. The EU survey shows that the integration of incoming students is an important element to be considered for further enhancement. There has been an active dialogue with the local student union in order to promote integration. Student to student communication is crucial, as administrative functions can only contribute to a certain extent in integration. The local student union has taken an active role in integration advancement and particularly encourages student guilds to innovate new forms of operation to encourage integration of incoming students.

The Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) programme offers possibilities for new openings with non-programme countries, particularly in the third cycle mobility, which is one of the focus areas in the ICM mobility from the LUT University point of view. Mobility of third cycle students helps to form basis for further research cooperation and gives young researchers a great possibility to expand their network for their career advancement. In general, LUT University aims at long-term cooperation with partner universities to achieve sustainable and enhanced cooperation, high quality mobilities and to make efficient usage of resources.

Erasmus+ actions will contribute to increasing graduate employment rates of both local and international students through higher numbers of internationally mobile students and by further enhancement of education and service quality. This can be achieved by cooperative educational projects including e.g. enhanced career services to international students, cooperation with enterprises and by identifying a larger number of potential entrepreneurs on campuses. Blended mobility will offer new possibilities and is likely to attract new prospective candidates for mobility, both students and staff.

We expect that participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will improve the position of LUT University as an industry cooperation partner both in Finland and globally by increasing not only the number of company partners, but also improving the depth and quality of our cooperation. This can be monitored by the number of delivered solutions to industrial challenges in the framework of educational courses, diversity of company involvement in educational process and by collecting company feedback to become more responsive to international labour market needs. Also, involvement in Erasmus+ projects will help us in forming open, dynamic, inclusive and attractive intercultural campuses to attract even larger number of motivated students.