

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020 of Carinthia University of Applied Sciences

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain 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 regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles including study and training and short cycles). If applicable please explain how our institution participates and the development of the double/multiple/joint degrees

CUAS target is to develop and sustain an active international culture that promotes cultural awareness, international collaboration and encourages understanding of global issues. Students will be encouraged to gain international experience through studies or internships abroad.

Individual targets of outgoing rates are set in the strategies of each degree program. From the geographical point of view, most of the CUAS schools will focus on European Partnerships. However, for example, the degree program Social Work is in the process of extending the collaboration with African partners and will further develop its focus on educational and scientific cooperation.

The necessary bilateral agreements are signed with reputable academic institutions abroad after their programs have been examined and curricula matches identified.

The possibility of studying abroad is given once within the bachelor and once within the master program in almost all CUAS degree programs. All CUAS bachelor degree programs include a compulsory internship of at least 12 weeks, either at an Austrian or an international company or institution. As an internship abroad offers an opportunity to acquire international business and work experience as well as language and intercultural competencies, students are encouraged to go abroad. The International Office as well as the international departmental coordinators start informing the students about the possibilities and benefits of studying and/or doing an internship abroad already in their first semester at CUAS. The intranet as well as a newsletter regularly provide information on the international partners, the application process itself, as well as all other international activities. The recognition of credits achieved abroad is a prerequisite for the continuation and completion of a degree program at CUAS. The ECTS Learning or Training Agreement and Transcript of Records/Work are the main tools used in the recognition process. Academic support for all Incoming and Outgoing students is provided by the respective CUAS Program's International Departmental Coordinator or Internship supervisors. Additionally, all students receive organizational support from CUAS International Office.

CUAS is also open for international students especially Erasmus students from Europe, Marshall Plan Scholarship holders from USA as well as Ernst Mach Scholarship holders from non- European universities. CUAS International Office also supports all Incoming Exchange Students ie. by providing accommodation information, offering a "buddy"-CUAS-student, organizing a Welcome Day and social programs in cooperation with the student union throughout the semester.

Furthermore, CUAS both financially and organizationally supports the mobility of lecturers and administrative staff. Both full-time and part-time lecturers have opportunities to lecture at our EU and non-EU partner universities. Moreover, lecturers and other academic staff are encouraged to contribute and actively participate in international academic ventures. CUAS staff are also encouraged to take part in international training programs such as the Erasmus Staff Mobility Program.

The necessary bilateral agreements for staff exchange are signed with reputable academic institutions abroad after the institution abroad has been examined by the Departmental International Coordinator of the relevant CUAS School.

Taking the international projects into consideration, the School of Eng. & IT focuses not only on the European market but constantly strives for partnerships with Asia.

Guest professors from partner universities, industry or NGO-s, are welcome to give lectures at CUAS. Pending on the available capacities such lectures will be open for both CUAS students and staff.

In 2013 CUAS is offering one double degree program and intends to increase the number of double and joint degree programs to three by 2020. The double degree programs are considered as an interesting possibility to foster international academic exchange and the mobility of master degree students. Because of the still existing difficulties with the recognition of the CUAS diplomas in Italy, double degrees with Italian institutions are a CUAS priority. Moreover, because of the high potential of the partners from the Russian Federation, double degree programs within this area are considered.

CUAS is constantly working on further improvement and development of the mobility organizational framework.

Please describe your institutions' 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 program

CUAS is focused on the integration of developmental aspects and dimensions which are of increased importance in a globalized world. Developmental targets are handled as a cross-cutting issue in research and teaching.

CUAS considers the added value of international cooperation projects as an important part of personal development and views international cooperation as a mutually enriching experience. Participation in international projects offers ways to support other countries in their development, provides project actors with valuable experiences and acts as a multiplier through the coverage of local/national media.

CUAS's local network of partners such as Infineon, CTR, LAM allows students not only to carry out practice-oriented projects during the classes but also to gain important experiences during internships. Many CUAS students are able to use these projects that are driven by local as well as international companies as the foundation for their respective bachelor or master theses. CUAS would like to maintain the local network and invite smaller local companies and non-governmental organizations to join the partnerships. In this way CUAS would like to contribute to combining and developing local knowledge capacities.

Furthermore through significantly strengthened cooperation within the Central and East European Management Development Association (CEEMAN), CUAS would like to promote innovation and sharing of expertise in the area of management.

Through tight cooperation with partners from Ukraine and West-Balkan countries as well as Brazil, East African countries, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Western Sahara CUAS would like to highlight the attractiveness of EU education worldwide. Through the exchange of experts and good practice, CUAS strives to contribute to the implementation of EU standards within and beyond EU borders. In doing so, CUAS also aims to improve the quality and administration of higher educational systems.

Attracting excellent students and researchers from non-EU countries is one of the CUAS priorities. In the Erasmus Program 2007-2013 the School of Civil Engineering and Architecture has welcomed altogether ten students from Ukraine and West Balkan countries and would like to substantially increase this number by 2020.

The School of Engineering & IT regularly receives Incoming students from Brazil and would like to strengthen these mobility flows. This School has been also successfully attracting researchers and exceptional students from the Ukraine and would like in future to focus on that market.

In the past years The School of Engineering & IT has set up e-platforms with courses for students from Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and since the spread of the knowledge through this medium was a huge success, the school would like to improve the existing platforms and promote them among other student target groups.

Successful co-operations that have arisen through the research and Intensive Projects with international partners in the past years build a solid basis for further development of joint courses in the Degree Programs of Social Work, Systems Engineering and Health Care Management.

Lifelong learning and South-East Central European Studies are and will remain the main focus of the CUAS R&D strategy.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Program on the modernization of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernization Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve.

Priority1): Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

Long-term cooperation between CUAS and local secondary schools (e.g. through school projects competitions) will contribute to Austrian youth making informed decisions in their education.

CUAS has defined the recognition procedures and will further grant access to its degree programs to candidates with non-formal learning experience. Since Erasmus activities have always been a very important marketing tool, CUAS expects that promoting CUAS participation in the **Erasmus4all** program will attract even more potential students.

The combination of master degree programs taught at CUAS in English and the student loan guarantee is likely to attract students from South-Eastern Europe to study at CUAS. Their presence will further internationalize CUAS diversified campus.

The upcoming double and joint degree programs offered at CUAS in collaboration with international HEIs will open new perspectives in the labor market for CUAS graduates planning to continue their career path abroad but also those coming from abroad and planning to stay in Austria.

Priority 2: Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

After the success of TEMPUS e-Learning projects and in order to increase its international competitiveness, CUAS will further develop its offer of blended learning courses.

Sector skills alliances with local companies such as INFINION, KAGIS, KABEG, KAPSCH, LAM and STRABAG in association with the constant evaluation of the degree programs should further allow CUAS to adjust them to the needs of industry and therefore in the long term increase the employability of its graduates.

Supporting the CUAS mobility of lecturers will contribute to the development of new teaching methods (technology enhanced learning). Further education of CUAS staff in terms of mobility programs will promote lifelong learning among the staff members.

Priority 3: Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

CUAS will further strongly encourage students to take part in the mobility programs. In order to increase mobility, financial support will be offered by CUAS Schools to students disadvantaged because of their economic background.

Through the financial support offered by the CUAS Schools, the institution expects to furthermore attract excellent incoming students from various economic backgrounds to complete a semester abroad at CUAS.

Priority 4: Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

CUAS would like to convert the local network into sector skills alliances inviting also local smaller organizations or companies to join the partnerships (e.g. through internships or long term research projects). This concentration of knowledge and experience will strengthen the cooperation within the Alpine-Adriatic region.

Priority 5: Improving governance and funding

CUAS has established and will continue financial agreements with the regional government and the municipalities. This will allow further independent development of degree programs and other university activities. Additionally moderate tuition fees will further support CUAS in developing its independent HE strategy. CUAS will remain a non-profit private foundation which will keep the institution legally independent and autonomous in developing its own academic approach.

Erasmus4all will provide additional incentives for government agencies to support CUAS's international initiatives.

Signed in Spittal an der Drau on 14 Mai 2013 by:



FH-Prof. Dietmar Brodel
Rector



DI Siegfried Spanz
Executive Director