

EUROPEAN POLICY STATEMENT for the Lifelong Learning Programme - Period 2010-2013

1. Strategy, objectives and priorities

The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (CUAS)- Fachhochschule Kärnten - offers interdisciplinary degree and non degree programs in the areas of engineering, management, healthcare and social work. A central aim of the CUAS is to achieve excellence in applied research and moreover, CUAS defines itself as an international university.

CUAS actively participates in the European Higher Education Area and the international scientific community to assure and increase its academic quality.

CUAS consists of the following Schools:

- School of Applied Health Professions & Midwifery
- School of Civil Engineering and Architecture
- School of Geoinformation
- School of Health and care
- School of Management
- School of Medical Information Technology
- School of Network Engineering and Communication
- School of Social Work
- School of Systems Engineering

Each CUAS School defines its own internationalization strategy, which is implemented with the support of the central International Office.

The goals of student, teaching and staff mobility as well as international project collaboration are defined by the respective School and coordinated by the International Office. Our aim is a proactive approach towards the development of our students (knowledge skills attitude).

Our target is to enable all interested students to gain international experience (international studies or internships abroad). Individual targets of outgoing rates are set in each school's strategies.

A wide choice of foreign **language courses** with an emphasis on English language training enables the outgoing students to prepare for their study abroad experience.

Guest lecturers from around the world, **summer schools**, **student excursions groups** from partner universities as well as numerous events with our international students enable all students to experience internationality at home. Students are particularly encouraged to take part in short periods abroad such as excursions to our partner universities or companies abroad.

The **integration of our international and domestic students** is essential for CUAS. German language courses as well as workshops on intercultural communication are conducted in order to foster integration. This process also takes place through social events organized throughout the semester by the International Office in cooperation with the ÖH (student union). Moreover, students are supported through individual assistance provided by each School's International Coordinator and the International Office.

Furthermore, CUAS supports the **mobility of lecturers and administrative staff**. Both full-time and part-time lecturers have opportunities to visit and lecture at our partner universities in Europe.

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

CUAS regards its participation in the LLP and the Erasmus University Charter as an important sign of **quality**, and all related activities will be presented both internally and externally via publications, websites, conferences, fairs and interviews. In addition to the Bologna process most of the procedures and documents have been described in detail and standardized and are constantly being updated by the CUAS Quality Management System.

Equal treatment advisers within the Schools promote a sensitive approach to the issue of equal treatment thus supporting their corporate image. At the same time the issue of equal treatment is defined as an integral part of the duties of all members of the senior management, and as such they cannot be delegated. Intercultural sensitivity, tolerance and the achievement of intercultural competence are fundamental in the approach to this issue. Openness for other nationalities and preparing outgoing students is promoted through specific workshops and activities on intercultural competence organized by the International Office for

CUAS students and staff.

Gender equality and a fair balance of the sexes are taken into account by CUAS when recruiting students and staff.

2. What kind of specific measures are implemented in the institution to ensure high quality in academic mobility activities?

Quality assurance of mobility measures is coordinated by the International Office in cooperation with the Quality Management Department. One of the elements in the quality assurance process are reports that are to be prepared by all exchange students and are then evaluated by the International Office and made available to all students. The recognition of credits achieved abroad is a prerequisite for the continuation and completion of a degree program at CUAS. This recognition is guaranteed by means of the ECTS Learning Agreement and the ECTS Credit System in all programs. The Learning Agreement is prepared jointly with the respective School's International Coordinator prior to the semester abroad, and is updated within the first month of the semester abroad.

Details of the courses available at the partner institutions are provided via Internet links and brochures provided by the International Office or School's International Coordinators. At the beginning of each academic year information events for potential outgoing students are organized by the International Office. On the CUAS website and Intranet of the International Office and at each administration office, there are brochures with the description of the program and procedures. Individual questions are answered during the consulting hours of the international coordinators. All outgoing students have the possibility to attend language courses as a preparation for their semester abroad. They are also welcome to join workshops on international communication organized by the International Office once every semester.

Services for incoming students include a Welcome Day and social programs throughout the whole semester organized by the International Office and the student union. CUAS also supports incoming students in providing accommodation information and offers them a "buddy", who is a CUAS student. Courses listed in the Learning Agreement are selected together with the School's International Coordinator, who encourages the incoming students to take part in additional English language courses and German as a Foreign Language courses.

Lecturer mobility is supported both financially and organizationally.

3. What kind of specific measures are implemented to ensure high quality in student placements?

All Bachelor CUAS degree programs entail 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 competencies, students are encouraged to go abroad.

When looking for potential placement opportunities, students are encouraged to use the international contact network of their respective professors. Each school has a supervisor supporting the students in finding a placement. When students are interested in contacting the company the school supervisor provides them with a letter of introduction giving the general description of the internship aim. Agreements describe the scope and the aims of the internship.

The International Office supports students in organizing international internships.

During the internship each student delivers reports to his/her internship supervisor. Internship conferences in form of seminars and presentations are part of the quality assurance procedure. Further measures include interim and final reports, which provide information about the respective student's main job duties, changes in the allocated scope of duties, support and social integration at the relevant enterprise.