

Erasmus Policy Statement

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Participation in Erasmus+

Participation in the Erasmus+ programme will help the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons (UAS Grisons) achieve its internationalisation goals by expanding mobility opportunities for students and staff, promoting international research collaboration, and strengthening global partnerships.

The UAS Grisons ensures the successful implementation of Erasmus+ by providing dedicated personnel in the central International Relations Office as well as the International Affairs Committee, which includes representatives of all institutes, study programmes, the Research Office as well as the University Development and Quality Management Division.

Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning Mobility of Individuals

The UAS Grisons provides its students with structured opportunities to earn academic credits through international learning experiences, such as exchange semesters, internships and plans to offer short-term blended intensive programmes (BIPs) in the future.

The UAS Grisons aims to further internationalise its curricula to create more opportunities for incoming student and staff mobility, while also promoting the integration of international and intercultural perspectives across the curricula and campus life (Internationalisation at Home)

Academic staff benefit from international exchanges that enhance their teaching and intercultural skills and foster lasting collaborations with partner institutions and networks. Non-academic staff participate in mobility opportunities to improve their language skills, develop intercultural competences and engage in knowledge sharing with international peers across institutions.

The implementation of the KA1 programme builds on a well-established partnership network as well as long-standing programme management experience and support structures across the institution.

Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation Among Organisations and Institutions

UAS Grisons aims to strengthen its cooperation with international partners including universities, research institutions, businesses and professional associations to drive innovation, cooperation and excellence in teaching and research. This involves joint initiatives, co-creation with industry, and active participation in global networks that foster applied research, curriculum development, and knowledge exchange.

The UAS Grisons aims to establish long-term strategic partnerships, including membership in a European Universities Alliance and the development of joint-degree programmes in our key areas of expertise.

To expand its future participation in Erasmus+ cooperation projects, the university will allocate the required financial resources to establish internal incentive systems and provide dedicated administrative support.

Strategy, objectives and impact

Internationalisation is an important element of the UAS Grisons' institutional development. Participation in the Erasmus+ programme supports the university in achieving its three main internationalisation objectives:

1. **Establish and maintain alliances, collaborations, and international partnerships.**

The institution's internationalisation strategy aims to strengthen cross-border cooperation in education, research and innovation as a core element of UAS Grisons' strategic development. Sustainable partnerships and alliances with higher education institutions support long-term research collaboration, joint educational initiatives and active participation in international academic networks. These activities foster innovation, enhance academic excellence and increase UAS Grisons' attractiveness as an internationally connected higher education and research hub.

2. **Enable international employability and professional development.**

By participating in Erasmus+ learning mobility programmes and by experiencing the integration of global perspectives in the curricula, students and staff develop the competencies required to operate successfully in an increasingly globalised labour market. These include language proficiency, intercultural competence as well as a broad set of transferable skills. Through international experiences abroad, online and at home, staff will broaden their professional horizons, access valuable global networks, experience peer-learning and further develop their intercultural competence and language skills.

3. **Strengthen international visibility and knowledge transfer.**

Through participation in Erasmus+ programmes, the university strengthens its international profile and positions itself as an attractive and reliable partner for academic cooperation. By expanding research and cooperation projects in key strategic areas, such as innovation and the societal and economic development of Alpine regions, the institution develops distinctive strengths with global relevance. A strong international profile is essential for attracting excellent staff in teaching, research, administration and leadership as well as highly qualified students and partner institutions. Increased international visibility thereby supports and amplifies the university's overall strategic objectives.

A project roadmap and corresponding measures have been developed based on the three objectives of the internationalisation strategy to ensure their effective implementation. The central aspect and first project is the participation in the Erasmus+ programme.

Integration of Cross-Cutting Themes

Three of the Erasmus+ priorities align with the cross-cutting themes as defined in the UAS Grisons' University Strategy 2025–2028. These themes are embedded throughout all internationalisation activities, ensuring strategic coherence and societal impact.

Inclusion and Diversity: At UAS Grisons, inclusion and diversity are core values shaping our teaching, research, and international engagement. Within the framework of Erasmus+, we foster inclusive mobility and cooperation by ensuring equal opportunities for all participants, regardless of their background, and by integrating diverse perspectives into curricula and campus life. Recognising that many of our students work part-time and cannot spend extended periods abroad, we seek to develop and promote short-term mobility opportunities, virtual exchanges and BIPs, as well as Internationalisation@Home initiatives. These measures aim to ensure that students with fewer opportunities can fully participate in international learning.

UAS Grisons ensures fair and transparent selection and recognition procedures, supports students with disabilities or chronic illnesses and actively promotes gender equality and non-discrimination. An inclusive curriculum, an increasing number of English-taught modules and a strong welcome culture for international staff and students will further contribute to create an open and diverse academic environment.

Sustainability and environmentally friendly practices: For UAS Grisons, sustainable development provides guidance for the development of the university. In the context of Erasmus+ participation, we commit to promoting sustainable practices, including the promotion of green mobility, developing long-term sustainable partnerships, sustainability-focused research topics and cooperation projects within Erasmus+ and beyond. Furthermore, the European Student Card Initiative (ESCI) will encourage greener administration through paperless workflows.

Digitalization: In our education programmes, we impart sound theoretical knowledge and practical expertise in the application of artificial intelligence. In this way, we are preparing the next generation of AI experts for the future. A dedicated Teaching and Learning Center supports teaching staff in implementing modern, digital teaching methods. Through Erasmus+, the university plans to participate in digital mobility initiatives such as BIPs to strengthen students' digital intercultural competencies. The ESCI initiative will help us further drive digital transformation and improve efficiency across our processes for partnership and mobility management.