

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK)

Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) offers education to approximately 10 000 students in the Tampere Region. TAMK's legal responsibilities also include applied research and development as well as service to local working life. TAMK strategy for 2010-2019 outlines our vision as "TAMK gives the keys to success by creating new and international knowhow". TAMK profiles as a multidisciplinary and international university of applied sciences, focusing on the promotion of wellbeing and health, business and production as well as learning and creativity.

Internationality is inscribed in our strategy, with carrying themes of internationalization, future knowhow, partnerships and customerships. TAMK's strategy aims at deepening our collaboration with selected key partners, limiting in turn the acquisition of new contacts. Cooperation with strategic partners is steered towards TAMK's selected focus areas. In selecting regular partnerships we measure whether the partner adds value to our quest in fulfilling strategic goals as well as the scope of collaboration and how well our fields of education and expertise are represented. We pay attention to the variety of the partner's course offerings to our students as well the quality of support services for mobile staff and students. TAMK has not set geographical boundaries or targets, but rather hopes to cover our areas of expertise now and in the future. Agreement proposals come from degree programmes and drafts are worked on together with the international services.

Most of TAMK students are first cycle (bachelor level) students and naturally most of our mobility happens during that phase. TAMK has put emphasis on increasing mobility during the second cycle (master level). International mobility among staff is interwoven into TAMK's general staff development planning and aims at deepening international knowhow, resulting in exchangeable course content planning, implementation and projects. In addition to the main activities in long-term mobility, we also provide support for short-term mobility to provide for those who cannot participate in exchanges (e.g. mature students).

In the new Programme period TAMK hopes to further develop joint and double degrees with selected partners in order to create this option in each field of study. At present we collaborate in some form of degree collaboration with approximately ten higher education institutions within and outside Europe.

TAMK has outlined in its strategy that project planning must be primarily strategically focused and multidisciplinary. Integration of teaching, research, development and innovation should be outlined in each curriculum to better include students and staff from all fields of education. Working life contacts and regional impact are essential in project activities.

TAMK implements an internal evaluation process where all project plans (both EU and non-EU) are scrutinized. The evaluation group includes all vice presidents, the director of higher education services and a member of TAMK project services. Each project proposal is evaluated based on how the new initiative would strengthen TAMK's profile and focus areas. They are also evaluated based on how the initiative supports internationalization, how it integrates into curricula and which needs it meets in strengthening our strategic partnerships.

TAMK assigns each project both an academic coordinator and an administrative coordinator. Smooth collaboration between the two is invaluable from a quality standpoint. Preparation and implementation of projects is also carried out in close collaboration with all participating beneficiaries, who we know from experience will produce innovative and concrete results. Project planning is also long-term strategic collaboration.

Financial and administrative organization of projects is described in TAMK's quality manual. Reporting and evaluation adheres always to the financier's guidelines and results are disseminated in both internal and international seminars, conferences, media and publications.

Transparency of national admissions and lack of tuition fees enable wide participation in higher education. TAMK supports speedy graduation of students through maintaining current and multidisciplinary learning and innovation environments which meet the needs of individual learning. Development of unimpeded learning environments takes into account foreign students with emphasis on identifying the needs of students in danger of social exclusion. Wellbeing of students and staff is at the forefront of measures outlined in our strategy – to make TAMK an attractive place to work and study. TAMK core values are communality, respecting individuality and variety, sustainable development as well as valuing knowhow and entrepreneurship.

TAMK aims at raising the level of education and applied research in collaboration with working life by being an active participant in the new Programme period. Constant evaluation of education and gathering feedback from future employers of students and alumni is part of ongoing quality assurance and systematic preparation for the future. Input from working life is absorbed through advisory boards and collaboration projects carried out with surrounding enterprises and society. This way TAMK ensures its role as an active participant in social dialogue and promotes sustainable development in Europe.

Wide cooperation networks (within and outside the EU) enable mobility among students and experts and assist in building a genuinely international learning environment. All students and staff members are offered the possibility to take part in exchanges abroad. With the help of mobility documentation we guarantee that participants are fully accredited for successful periods abroad. All students and staff members are reached with the implementation of an international dimension in all curricula. Establishing continuous exchange of expertise is one of our strategic measures and is realized particularly in staff mobility and projects.

The new Programme period enables TAMK to acquire additional funding in order to maintain high quality of education and applied research as well as carrying out necessary renewals in our operational environment. Project planning will aim at developing chosen focus areas, thus utilizing the synergy of TAMK's multidisciplinary profile. TAMK has named its focus areas as wellbeing entrepreneurship, services for seniors, cultural export, intelligent machines, environmental impact of real estate and entrepreneurial pedagogy. In these spearhead areas of expertise TAMK aims at being competitive both nationally and internationally in order to provide knowhow needed in working life of the region.