



UNIVERSITY OF  
NORDLAND

# Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

Geographically, our institutions` international (EU and non –EU) strategy focus on strategic alliances within Russia, the EU, North America; countries involved in our national High North/Arctic strategy. In addition, developed and emerging new economies/ countries in Asia, South America and Africa fitting into our academic portfolio will play a more important role.

The university seeks to balance our local and regional strategy to the existing international strategy of our Ministry of Education.

a) Our partners are chosen by several indicators and usually from an existing academic network by our researchers and/or academic staff. The overall purpose is to find compatible partner institutions within our focus areas that will provide us with the additional capability to challenge established truths, and to be better able to contribute to the national and international body of knowledge. The faculties quality assure credit allocation, education and research activities during the initiation, whilst finalization of agreements together with the centralized administration, make sure the institutional benefit is profiled.

Centralized activities within the current LLP programs, and non –EU programs in terms of mobility scholarship, and training projects are activities mainly handled through the centralized administrative unit, but all activities are evaluated together with the faculties. Agreements are sought to be better monitored, both for academic activities but also for other aspects as risk analysis, local and regional benefits, and synergies effects within capacity building with neighboring countries and partner Countries.

b) Our university received the ECTS label in 2012, and we recently signed an agreement with the North Norway European office linking our education and research activities to our county municipalities, building regional foci. This means our ambition is to further strengthen our EU focus particularly linked to the High North/Arctic policy, in terms of geopolitical area. The coming Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+, with its focus on learning mobility of individuals and strategic alliances towards Russia, China, North America and selected African /Asian countries will be essential areas to encourage transparency, openness and excellence, in academic areas as sustainable energy management, biosciences, maritime technology and management, marine ecology, cross border mobility, sociology and social sciences, teacher education and professional practice in the Arctic areas.

c) Student and staff mobility, studying and training placement, will continue to play the major part in our internationalization actions and is important to maintain educating global citizens, enhancing innovation, productivity and growth. Our institutional goal is 10 % mobility of graduated students, outgoing and incoming, towards 2020. Building staff competence by mobility actions has shown to be a very effective way to raise awareness of the faculty and the institutional internationalization strategy. We believe that the coming mobile researcher is a result of, amongst other things, an early introduction to international mobility opportunities, in the 1st cycle, on short term or long term. Even though the national financial incentives are

allocated by a study abroad period of maximum 3 months, we do encourage and facilitate mobility of shorter period of time. Institutionally, we think that there are benefits of short term mobility as we have to take into account that time and finances have a strong impact on students' choices. We do hope the length of mobility as suggested in Erasmus+ opens up for training placement of 2 months. This will have a positive effect on recruitment of placement offers for nursing, teacher students, social workers and placement of students in enterprises. Our university is currently involved in consortia of higher education institution of 300 members within the Arctic area, offering a political science bachelor degree with flexible learning, virtual mobility, e-learning and on campus training, in circumpolar studies.

Being a member of the joint working group of the Barents Euro Arctic Research, there is an aim to better integrate and include the EU in the Arctic education and research institutional strategies. We have offered two joint master degrees within energy management and sustainable management with Russian, Ukrainian, Canadian and US institutions since 2007. We are offering a joint bachelor program in animal science with a Slovakian university, planning one joint master degree in West Nordic studies, and recently we started a joint master in Borderology with a Russian institution. It is within our ambition to initiate joint degrees in all of our 4 pillars of focus area, as the joint degrees are an excellent way to cooperate institution to institution. We have yet to initiate an Erasmus Mundus project.

Mobility for transnational learning to our strategic partnerships and cooperating institutions will remain the core element in the implementation of the new program in our institution. We need future competent student and staff and we as an institution must seek to gain at its maximum from the valuable training period achieved abroad. Revising the partner portfolio, seeking the best options for mobile student and staff are activities evaluated against the institutional strategies. The division of task is currently under alteration by allocating time and resources to work specifically with the European and partner country perspectives. Both student and staff numbers will be increased and best practice will be profiled more systematically within the institution.

As for cooperation for innovation and good practices, we have been project runners of several competence building projects with partner countries within social work with a comparative perspectives together with African, European and Latin American institutions. Involved with projects within entrepreneurship and innovation, aquaculture and biosciences with Asian and South East Asian institutions, it is our ambition to build third and neighborhood country strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances and sector skills alliances in the fields of economy, social sciences, vocational studies aimed at welfare professions, aquaculture , biosciences, and professional studies.

As for support for Policy reforms, we are considering to join the U- Multirank project, and have participated in UMAP. Nationally, we are following the work of the EU transparency tools. Institutionally, we chaired the national board of the High North strategy and our long standing relationship of 25 years with Russian universities has included us in the national policy making , which will be most relevant in strategic alliances with higher education institutions in third countries, knowledge alliances and sector skills alliances(enterprises).

We are expecting to ensure regional distribution of research based knowledge and competence within the national and international body of knowledge. The university will develop creative, critical and dynamic talents in people providing the graduates and the researchers the labor market and the society need. By Erasmus+, there will be ample opportunities for the university to create possibilities for students and staff to study, train and

teach abroad, and receive highly skilled student and staff for our own institutional benefit. Together with our strategic partners, alliances by institution and by business/enterprises, we will be a window to the world from Europe. The university will combine long term development and academic quality with the ability to change. Involvement in international education and training projects will open up for better access to external funding, to enhance both education and research. The study and partner portfolio will be further developed so that attractive studies can increase in qualified applicants to the university and help strengthen the economic basis for quality development of the institution. Amongst other things, efforts to establish international joint degrees to contribute to making an attractive portfolio of study programs. A joint degree represents future-looking and academic, dynamic international endeavor, as well as vitalizing our academic network. Continued support and cooperation with local and regional businesses, works of life and politically and financially important institutions will enhance the visibility and reputation of the institution. The University will encourage suggestions from society and working life in order to meet the needs of the region and the society. Learning mobility of students and staff will be evaluated on a qualitative level to see if we are within the parameters of enhancing quality at the institution, and opening up for partner and neighborhood countries will improve our visibility and mobility options. Developmental ICT work in education, we provide online teaching in English on Bachelor and master level (virtual mobility) and work on defining learning outcomes in study plans and course description will form the basis for intensified endeavour in developing study quality and university pedagogical competence. The university aims to increase use of the ICT in a pedagogical manner in order to form the basis to apply for status as a Centre of Excellence. The university has an objective of increasing the level of external financing of research projects at the university considerably through funding provided by The Norwegian Research Council and the EU programs.

The university aims to develop a clearer and more focused policy for the university's cooperation with bordering institutions, which helps realize the university's and the bordering institutions' research strategic objectives. Establishment of a research park is given a priority in this work.