

Erasmus Policy Statement

Internationalisation forms an important part of NHL Stenden's assignment to deliver high quality, worldwide education and research. The labour market and the industries for which our students are educated are increasingly globalised. In order to cope with an increasingly interwoven and interdependent world, all students must understand and be aware of the intercultural and international dimensions and context of their field of study, whether they study abroad or at home, at Associate, Bachelors or Master's degree level.

Following from the above, NHL Stenden's mission and vision lead to appealing ambitions with regard to internationalisation:

- NHL Stenden graduates have acquired the international and intercultural competencies needed to ensure a successful (international) career in their industry (qualification);
- NHL Stenden graduates have been made familiar with a diverse array of traditions, cultures, practices, values and norms (socialisation);
- NHL Stenden graduates are autonomous and independent individuals in our local, national and global society (subjectification).

The internationalisation policy is composed in line with NHL Stenden's Strategic Plan 2019-2024. To direct the development of the internationalisation of NHL Stenden, policy objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) have been formulated, connected to the current phase of development of the institution. These policy objectives and KPIs are based on the strategic priorities set by NHL Stenden in relation to internationalisation in this policy, and on shaping and implementing the preconditions needed in order to live up to the standard of becoming a fully internationalised university of applied sciences.

The ambition to be a fully internationalised university sets requirements for an international friendly and diverse environment as well as the composition and experience of our staff. Staff mobility and exchange is an important aspect of our internationalisation activities, both by traveling and online in intercollegiate cooperation.

Participating in the Erasmus project is one of these preconditions that opens possibilities for students and staff to participate in activities, projects, exchange and other forms of international cooperation, virtual as well as by travelling. NHL Stenden currently builds a network of strong European partners to cooperate on strategic level to develop innovative forms of internationalization and mobility.

Erasmus+ actions NHL Stenden takes part in

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

- Mobility of students and staff is an important activity and precondition to acquire the international and intercultural competencies we mentioned in our institutional strategy. Our International network offers strong and attractive possibilities both for students and staff to gain a wide array of experiences we cannot offer at home. NHL Stenden actively promotes this to students and staff to use the opportunities enriching their learning experiences and teaching practice.

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

- Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices
As NHL Stenden is experienced in alternative forms of internationalisation, we are a frontrunner in innovative internationalisation. We like to share our experiences and benchmark activities with relevant and valuable institutes to learn and further improve our activities.

- Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities
NHL Stenden applied for European University in 2020 (RUN-EU), believing that a strong network of European partner universities and societal parties with a joint challenge and accordingly assignment can be of great value for the organisation on all levels.
- Partnerships for Excellence – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
NHL Stenden wants to deepen and broaden the cooperation with existing partners. Next to credit mobility and staff exchange we like going further and explore possibilities for development of Masters with a select set of partner institutions.
- Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

Bringing the relation with our partner institutions to a higher level not only improves the quality of our education (the main goal of internationalisation), but also opens ways to further development of our policies and cooperation. We like to learn from inspiring colleagues and institutions, but we think we have to offer experiences and vision on international cooperation that can be of great value to others and in discussion can be further developed to a next level by creating a joint policy.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Inclusive Education

NHL Stenden has a strong focus on developing education from level 5EQF to level 7EQF as well as offering flex programmes. This will enable more students to gain higher education. NHL Stenden has several facilities to support students, such as student counsellors (in multiple languages), study coaches within the programme and confidential counsellors as well. Students are informed in information sessions of facilities offered to ensure all students feel facilitated to participate in mobility activities. Strong partnerships support this process; it is important for NHL Stenden to trust that partners are able to look after the students with fewer opportunities.

European Student Card

NHL Stenden is committed to joining the European Student Card Initiative. The implementation of a Customer Relationship Management system in 2020 will support online learning agreements and the management of inter institutional agreements. Furthermore, NHL Stenden has a project group for implementation of Bologna tools and this can be included in their scope.

Ecological footprint

NHL Stenden is very much aware of the ecological footprint, and is actively looking at ways to reduce this, by promoting train travel for shorter destinations. Furthermore, there is a stronger focus on blended mobility to create more Internationalisation at Home opportunities. Every year, students work on a sustainability project to compensate for the flight movements of staff and students, in cooperation with the purchasing department.

Active citizenship

NHL Stenden is committed to civic engagement and to the SDGs of the UN. The three focus areas of the strategic institutional policy are Vital Regions, Service Economy and Smart Sustainable Industries. The educational concept of Design Based Education links education, research and industry, whereby students work on real-life challenges for real-life organisations. Furthermore, NHL Stenden is committed to Universities Fighting World Hunger, whereby students develop initiatives to raise awareness and funds to fight world hunger. Outgoing students participate in preparation meetings and are asked to write learning goals related to their study period abroad.