

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

University of Applied Sciences in Tarnow

University of Applied Sciences in Tarnow (UAS Tarnow) is a public university, which aims to develop Tarnow and its region in cooperation with the local community through an educational offer of courses at Level 6 and 7, as well as scientific research. The university enables its students to acquire general and professional knowledge, practical skills and social competences necessary to take up challenges in the rapidly changing world.

Internationalization is an important task of the university included in the University's Strategy. It aids graduates' employment prospects thanks to an early orientation towards the European labour market. It also enhances pedagogical excellence and research quality of the staff. It encourages the development of active citizens, aware of their local values and realizing the importance of understanding and developing the shared European values

UAS in Tarnow intends to continue participating actively in international networks, European programmes and cooperate with foreign partner institutions under bilateral multilateral agreements. It is also intended to develop and widen the existing international partnerships. The University attaches great importance to the choice of partner institutions taking into consideration the partner's excellence in education and research, compatibility of programmes as well as the possibility of catering of the needs of students and staff.

The targets to achieve in the area of internationalization:

- Participation of students and staff in international educational programmes and projects. Gaining professional experience abroad;
- Creating an attractive program offer for foreign students;
- Adapting services to the needs of foreign students;
- Developing the social competence, knowledge and skills of academic staff to work in international teams;
- Increasing the language competence of students and employees;
- Supporting students and academic staff during international mobility;
- Supporting students and academic staff coming to our University;
- Employing academics from abroad;
- Increasing intercultural awareness of students and staff
- Exchanging of knowledge, experience and good practices with international partners developing common innovative solutions, and cooperating for wider policy changes in the future.

UAS in Tarnów acknowledges the importance of international experience for the quality of education and research and strives to ensure a wide access to international mobility to both students and staff. The University also provides the academic community with 'internationalization at home' engaging international exchange students and staff in cooperative activities to encourage building relationships and increasing intercultural awareness.

The UAS believes that the quality of learning and teaching is enhanced by student and staff mobility, as well as strategic partnerships that emphasise the development of high-quality curricula and provide students with valuable employability and life skills. Through collaborations with partners, our students and staff will benefit from exposure to different ways of thinking, enabling both the University and our partners to more quickly and assuredly develop and improve existing areas of good practice.

The UAS participation of our institution in the Erasmus+ programme supports all main areas identified in the renewed European Union agenda for higher education. The Erasmus+ actions strongly support the objectives set by the European Commission in the aspects of education, research, innovation, digitalization, social investment and skills and ensure the development of key competences for lifelong learning, digital skills and an enhancement of common values and inclusive education. The UAS therefore aims:

- To digitalize the administrative process and implement digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative;
- To increase the number of university graduates;
- To improve the quality of education and international cooperation and implement quality indicators to assess international partnership;
- To provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border cooperation to improve higher education performance;
- To develop cooperation with partners from other countries;
- To promote and support student and staff mobility, especially for individuals with fewer opportunities, and further develop the non-discrimination policies;
- To promote civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility or project;
- To conduct a clear policy towards the development of integrated, transnational teaching activities (joint courses / modules / curricula, double / multiple / joint degrees);
- To recognize the value of mobility and results achieved by staff members engaged in individual mobility or in multilateral projects;
- To monitor and improve European and international mobility and cooperation activities;
- To respect in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion set out in the Programme;
- To ensure equal and fair access and opportunities for current and prospective participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities;
- To ensure full automatic recognition of all credits (based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - ECTS) gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during mixed mobility;
- To expand the offer of education in foreign languages in individual faculties and implement mixed blended mobility activities in the mobility offer;
- To promote environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the programme;
- To promote the University internationally.

UAS in Tarnów expects that its participation in activities offered via the Erasmus+ program (mobility, joint projects, cooperation projects) will result in further modernization of the university, better adaptation to the needs of the region, country and EU, and requirements of labour market. It will enable further development of its educational offer and research potential. It is a process which has continuously been improving and strengthening the University over the last two decades, providing valuable results. Participation in the programme and close cooperation with international partner institutions will provide both the examples of good practice, ready, properly tested solutions and insight into the needs of other labour markets and institutions. It will contribute to improving the educational offer and attracting more students and candidates also from abroad. In effect, both the quality of the educational offer and the level of employability of the graduates will be improved.



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