

Erasmus+ Policy Statement

As Austria's only purely technical University of Applied Sciences, the University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien is a landmark institution in engineering education and research. The core mission of the UAS Technikum Wien is to educate students on a scientifically sound and practice-oriented higher education level and thus to provide them with the skills and competences needed in the European and global labour market. In this light, the UAS Technikum Wien regards itself as training ground for future engineers and researchers for national and international industries. In line with the priorities of the European Union, the UAS Technikum Wien sets three focus areas for internationalisation under the Erasmus+ period 2021-2027:

Inclusion and the role of technology

Digitalisation and global technological change demand experts who can think and act in international contexts, especially in the technical field. We believe it is the responsibility of a technical Higher Education Institution to prepare all students for the (inter)national and global labour market. In addition, the UAS Technikum Wien is aware of the possibilities and the challenges that come along with recent technological developments and strives to promote critical thinking among students, to support an open-minded culture on campus, and hence educate active and engaged citizens.

The UAS Technikum Wien further acknowledges and cherishes the importance of our diverse staff and student landscape (adult learner, working student, migrant background) and strives for an inclusive education on additional levels (lower socio-economic background, disabilities). Under the premise of the realities of our staff' and students' lives and the resulting diversity in programmes (part-time, full-time, dual) and in the didactic approach, we strive for wider inclusion by providing diversity in the international portfolio. The aim of the UAS Technikum Wien is to develop comprehensive approaches, complementary online formats (blended learning, virtual mobility etc.), and models for the non-mobile and less-mobile. A diverse portfolio of international experiences and perspectives is facilitated, in terms of an internationalisation at home, by integrating international and intercultural dimensions into formal and informal curricula of the study programmes of the four faculties. Room for discourse is created, which forms the basis of a sustainable internationalisation.

Shaping internationalisation sustainably

Sustainable internationalisation is targeted on two levels: the ongoing perpetuation of strategic partnerships as well as environmental sustainability of activities. Each faculty identifies strategic partners in target countries to ensure the diversity of the portfolio and to enhance quality in teaching and learning as well as for common research. The broad partner network of the UAS Technikum Wien offers a wide range of possibilities at home and abroad, in mobility (KA1) as well as in increased involvement in innovative cooperation (KA2) projects. The International Office of UAS Technikum Wien supports the faculties in allocating resources for prioritised activities (e.g. Erasmus+, Eurasia Pacific Uninet, Marshall Plan Scholarship) as well as helps to monitor and support the European and global partner network. Long-term impact of projects demands strong partnerships, which form the basis of international activities at the UAS Technikum Wien.

Exchange and mobility of students and staff remains an important pillar of internationalisation in the years to come. In order to shape mobility sustainably, the UAS Technikum Wien aims at reducing the CO2 footprint of business trips. With the beginning of the year 2020, all flights that take place within the framework of Erasmus+ staff mobility are CO2-compensated by supporting national climate protection projects in the field of renewable energies. Environmentally friendly practices will be introduced and promoted among student exchange in the future. Measures for a green campus are introduced, e.g. by hosting international events as ökoEvents¹ in the future, which aim at raising awareness among inbound and outbound participants. Supported by the expertise of the research focus on renewable energies at the UAS Technikum Wien, the institution takes steps towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations with various environmentally friendly practices.

Quality in internationalisation

For the UAS Technikum Wien, internationalisation is not an end in itself, but an important instrument for improving the quality of teaching and acquiring new skills. The institution strives for a systemic approach when it comes to quality in internationalisation. Quality goals for internationalisation are implemented in the internal system of assuring and enhancing the quality of the study programmes. The goals continually monitor international activities of the faculties on a study programme level. The international profile of the study programmes are supported by the international faculty coordinators, who document and share the internationalization goals within the institution. Digitalisation additionally allows for an improvement of the quality of international activities: processes and mobility activities recorded in a transparent way (Mobility Online), mobility is enhanced and recognition procedures are automated (EWP and OLA, European Student Card Initiative), and teaching is supported (eg. through blended learning).

The topic of quality in internationalisation also makes a contribution with regard to employees; among other things, exchanges abroad by researchers are an official indicator for R&D. As a commitment to improving the general conditions for (international) researchers, the UAS Technikum Wien bears the label HR Excellence in Research. The institution is also part of the Dual Career Network in Austria and acts as Euraxess Contact Point.

The UAS Technikum Wien strives for innovative, high-quality international cooperation in teaching and learning and takes specific measures to improve mobility and promote the awareness of European and global diversity as well as the intercultural competence of its students, employees and instructors. Participation in European projects represents a central aspect of this diversity and, due to its broad anchoring in the institution, enables sustainable cooperation with partners. In line with its overall strategy, the University of Applied Technikum Wien provides the means for students and staff to move confidently in any international arena and to live and work among intercultural teams and hence contributes to the strengthening of the European Higher Education Area.

¹ <https://www.oekoevent.at/>