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## **Erasmus Policy Statement of Novia University of Applied Sciences**

Our vision: Novia is a dynamic, international HEI offering high quality education, research, development and innovation that supports working life and society. Novia is a leader in lifelong learning and, in our areas of strength, a forerunner among UAS in Finland. We put students, learning and quality at the centre and offer relevant education according to the needs of working life.

Novia's main strategic goals are Global Orientation for a Sustainable Future, Digital Learning and Digital Services and Flexible Education for Continuous Learning. Our graduates have the skill sets required for a global working life and sustainable development of society. Students gain competence in digitalisation, information analysis and problem solving to be able to work in a multicultural and digital society. Our students have a strong belief in the future, good social competence and the ability to see their own potential for lifelong professional development.

Teaching and research staff are active in international networks and strategic partnerships abroad. Systematic and long-term cooperation with international HEIs generates new knowledge, models and applications and enables sharing of best practices. Cooperation includes student and staff mobility, joint projects, Double Degree – agreements and global educational services. Participation in the Erasmus and Nordplus programmes strengthens our networks and increases the global competence of participants. Student and staff mobility is crucial for creating an international study environment for students and staff. The ECHE guidelines and participation in Erasmus help us develop the infrastructure needed for mobility activities and for reaching the objectives of our international strategy. We aim to include global competence in all curricula to strengthen intercultural understanding and communication skills.

Besides mobility opportunities, key competences for lifelong learning and digital skills are tools needed to establish a European Education Area. We will develop digital learning methods for increased online and hybrid education and virtual degree programmes. We use AI, automated processes in planning and teaching, and continue to digitalise processes and services to be able to offer all administrative services for students digitally. Participating in Erasmus 2021-27 and implementing Erasmus digital mobility management will support these

actions. Digital technology and people's interaction through this is already commonplace. We want to increase the understanding of technologies and learn how algorithms affect behaviour and decision-making. As algorithms gain more decision power, it is essential that we can trust systems using AI, and use digitally available data in smarter ways. Novia offers courses in AI and machine learning, decision support systems, strategic data management and analytics for working life. Novia wants a leading role among HEIs in Finland in applied intelligent systems with focus on AI, IoT, and robotics and welfare technology.

The demand for flexible educational services and lifelong learning opportunities is growing nationally and internationally. We will develop global educational services in our areas of strength: Sustainable Solutions, Entrepreneurship and the Nordic Dimension. Our special expertise in Sustainable Energy Technology, Automation and Ship Simulation, Interprofessional Health and Welfare, Business Development, Art, Culture and Entrepreneurship, Bioeconomy and Sustainable Use of Natural Resource shapes the identity of our workplace community, guides future investments and places us among the top universities of applied sciences in Finland.

Novia seeks growth by strengthening international networks and long-term partnerships. We reinforce our international presence by setting up new units abroad. We increase international student recruitment to provide regional companies and public sectors with a globally competent workforce. The global market for higher education is becoming more competitive and we need to develop versatile recruitment channels and offer flexible degree studies relevant to working life with a national and global impact. We base the Novia Global Education -model on our core values: competence, engagement and sustainability supported by our special knowledge and areas of strength. A clear profile of the HEI and high quality education are crucial for successful student recruitment. We attract motivated students from abroad by offering innovative, modern learning environments, a close connection to RDI, and strong embedding in working life. Global activities develop the competences of all students and staff and correspond to the strategic goals of Novia. We work towards increasing incoming and outgoing student and staff mobility with programme and partner countries. The Erasmus Programme is very important for student and staff mobility at Novia UAS and last year covered 85% of incoming and 52% of outgoing student mobility as well as 20% of outgoing staff and 43% of incoming staff mobility. Our participation in the Erasmus Programme both helps us to promote and increase mobility and develop

the infrastructure needed for successful implementation of mobility activities. In the coming Erasmus Charter period, we want to increase the rate of outgoing students and staff and focus on developing our processes needed for implementing the digital tools becoming available through the Erasmus without paper -project.

Novia is a forerunner in quality systems. The base for success lies in a result-oriented activity creating economic stability and security. This requires a high number of applicants, efficient student recruitment, cost consciousness, efficiency, high quality education and good results. Novia's strategy is implemented by internal action plans including goals, timetables, and responsibilities. We monitor and evaluate performance in accordance with our quality system and based on the performance indicators lined out in the Ministry of Education and Culture financing model for universities of applied sciences.

We base our quality objectives for mobility 2021-27 on the EU-surveys for 2015-2018 compiled for us by our National Agency. For incoming students we will focus on improving the course catalogue and integration with local students. We will work towards systematic recognition of teaching and training mobility for outgoing staff. Regarding all outgoing and incoming mobility, we strive to maintain high quality support arrangements and good results. To facilitate and improve existing processes we will make our institution ready for digital mobility management. We have registered Novia UAS in the Erasmus-dashboard and plan to implement the new features for digital mobility management according to the EWP timeline. We continuously follow the guidelines of the National Agency of Finland and the European Commission's European Student Card Initiative.

Novia has received international recognition for planning and carrying out activities with working life relevance as a beacon. Working life relevance is systematically present and anchored in all processes at all levels, both in education and RDI. The cooperation builds on close contacts between employers, students and alumni, and includes internships, theses, and common projects. We use effective didactic methods and entrepreneurially oriented courses to challenge students in authentic tasks in an affirmative and supporting atmosphere. We adapt the entrepreneurial way of working to fit each study field. In business and administration, students work with real assignments from companies and in real-life projects. Part of the studies takes place in cooperative companies that students start and run. Our methods for business development, pedagogics and project work

support the connection between theory and practical application and develop the students' ability to take initiatives. In art, culture and entrepreneurship, students gain competence in entrepreneurial processes and develop skills required in creative branches and society. Our diversity of different cultural education and activities strengthens a creative and solution-oriented way of working and enables us to offer individual solutions focusing on the development process and professional identity of the student.

We want to be a leader among HEIs in Finland when it comes to cooperation with working life and development of pedagogical methods in connection to this. Our pedagogy builds on a student centered, constructive approach where rethinking and innovation in working life has a regional, national and international impact. An entrepreneurial working approach and proactive adaptation to the needs of the labour market is part of our HEI profile and culture.

The use of environmental resources is crucial for the wellbeing of the individual and the maintaining of the welfare state. Novia has solid knowledge and a long experience in developing and applying solution models for global sustainability in ecology and technology. We have broad knowledge in automation and simulation technology and expertise in renewable energy and energy storage. Automation gains footage in new areas, such as health and social caring, customer service, monitoring and others, both as industrial applications and autonomous robotics. We have solid intercultural competence and long experience of successful interprofessional degree education for nurses and professionals in social services. Our strong caring tradition in Health and Welfare follows the Nordic welfare model, making us attractive on the global educational and research arena.

The trend in intelligent automation systems moves towards autonomous systems, remote control and monitoring of engines and ships, offering ways to minimise the use of material and personal resources. Novia is the largest educator of sea captains in Finland and has the largest maritime simulation educational centre in Northern Europe. Through our subsidiary, Ab Aboa Mare in Turku and our associate company, GigaMare Inc. in Subic Bay, The Philippines, we offer simulator-based education for the shipping industry and authorities.

Thanks to our cultural and linguistic competence, we cooperate extensively in the Nordic countries. During the years, Novia has been the HEI in Finland participating in the most Nordplus-networks and we have acted as coordinator for a third of our networks. More than half of Novia's RDI project portfolio consists of projects in the Nordic countries. Novia aims to be an active and valuable partner on the Nordic arena and a provider of competence on the global market. We engage in connecting Finland to the Nordic cultural community with the ambition to attain an established and natural role promoting cooperation in trade, industry and working life in and with the Nordic countries.

Our students need knowledge and skills for working in today's global environment and Erasmus mobility helps us create an international study environment, offering opportunities to be mobile or to interact with incoming students. All students should have social competence, communication and digital skills and be able to work in a multicultural environment. It is also essential for staff to learn and develop skills needed for teaching and doing research according to international standards and in multicultural settings. Mobility and digitalisation are part of our internationalisation and modernisation strategy and fit well into building a European Education Area.

