

HAN Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy), 2014-2020

HAN University of Applied Sciences aspires to earn an international profile. Its mission is to prepare students for the future and therefore provide them with international and intercultural competencies that are appropriate for the professions for which we train them. In accordance with a performance agreement with the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, by 2016 all HAN programmes need to have embedded internationalisation in their curricula. In HAN's strategic policy paper for 2012-2016, internationalisation is considered to be one of the important vehicles for improving the overall quality of education and research.

Related to this new policy, HAN wants to intensify and broaden its cooperation with several partners who share our vision and mission on internationalisation. In this process of choosing partners, we use a wide range of criteria:

- Geographical location: Finding partners who are located close to the border and who have intensive cross-regional cooperation with partners in the professional field is one obvious criterion. In addition, we aim to create a worldwide network of relevant partners that share the basic principles listed below.
- Sustainability and innovation: HAN-wide keystones for mission/vision.
- Curriculum: all HAN institutes have prioritised educational focal points that form the basis for content collaboration.
- Educational focus: professional training and applied research in a close relationship with the professional field, in 'living labs'.
- Historical links and cooperation within mobility and projects.

Intending to create an international profile (an international study and social climate) means that students and teaching and research staff will act more internationally. As a result, we expect that mobility will increase. The wider scope of internationalisation will not be restricted to the above-mentioned groups; non-teaching staff and management will also be involved and will become mobile. Although the mobility objectives vary among target groups, they have some common objectives:

- Developing professional and personal international and intercultural competencies.
- Improving the quality of education and research.
- Sharing and comparing new educational and professional developments.

HAN has also identified quantitative figures:

- We strive to have 20% of our graduates study abroad or do a semester-long work placement abroad.
- At least 5% of the teaching and/or research staff will be annually involved in international projects, guest lecturing, student or network visits, or conferences.

To increase the mobility of students who cannot travel for a whole semester because of study limitations, finances or private reasons, we aim to establish alternative forms of mobility like short study visits and placements, study tours and intensive programmes.

But we do not only focus on physical mobility; we want to extend virtual mobility as well. At the moment, we have several pilots which will prove the impact of this kind of gathering.

A more curriculum-centralised focus within internationalisation opens the possibility for exploring the possibilities of double or joint degree programmes. Several institutes are keen to participate in these degree programmes, but Dutch legislation first needs to clarify issues around funding and quality assurances.