

In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

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

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

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

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the

participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

*Erasmus Policy Statement in original language is available at the UiT website: https://uit.no/prosjekter/prosjekt?p_document_id=664367

Overall strategy

UiT The Arctic University of Norway (UiT) will contribute to knowledge-based development at regional, national and international level. Our central location in the High North, our broad and diverse research and study portfolio, our geographical breadth and our interdisciplinary qualities make us uniquely suited to meet the challenges of the future. Credibility, academic freedom, closeness, creativity and commitment will be hallmarks of the relationship between employees and students and between UiT and its partners. One of our priorities will be to help promote economic, cultural and social development in the north through building knowledge and human capital. UiT bases its priorities on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and will be at the international forefront in the following areas of knowledge; energy, climate, society and environment. Understanding what happens in the Arctic is key to understanding global climate change.

Mobility

Active agreements with highly rated partner institutions increase the academic quality and relevance of teaching and curriculum development. UiT will strive to identify partners that lead to new and innovative joint educational programs, exchange programs, research consortia and projects. It is also important to identify international partners through mutual interest between academic staff to ensure that all study programmes include quality-assured international exchange options.

UiT's geographical location encourages active participation in European and Nordic partnership programmes. There is a growing interest in the Arctic and its resources. By having established a partnership with some of the Nordic universities, synergies have emerged, which will further strengthen UiT's research, education and outreach related to Arctic interests. Each of the partner universities have unique strengths and areas of expertise that will provide unique opportunities for students, staff and stakeholders. UiT will also work systematically to further develop partnerships with European universities and to make strategic use of the Erasmus + programme. As for agreements and partnerships with institutions outside Europe, the Norwegian government has devised a strategy for cooperation in higher education and research with selected countries with a long-term plan for research and higher education to strengthen Norway's competitiveness and innovation ability, solving major challenges and developing excellent research communities. North America, China, India, Japan, Russia and South Korea are amongst others included in this strategy and thus prioritized by our institution. Singapore is also an important strategic partner country in addition to selected countries in the Global South.

UiT hosts 17,500 students including 1500 degree-seeking and exchange students from more than 100 countries. The international student community enriches not only our university but also the local community. Increased outbound student mobility is one of UiT's prioritized areas. An institutional action plan for increased mobility will be approved by the University Board in 2020 and will be followed up by action plans at faculty and department levels.

UiT employs close to 4000 staff members, including 800 international staff with 60 different citizenships. UiT aims at being an attractive employer offering competitive working conditions and a recruitment policy that emphasizes quality. UiT is affiliated to the European Charter of Researchers and The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and is awarded the logo HR Excellence in Research. In order to comply with the principles in Charter and Code, UiT strives to lay a good basis for utilization of and interaction between resources for research, both human and material. The declaration recognizes also the value of mobility as a means to strengthen the academic development of

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

researchers.

Joint degrees

UiT has adopted guidelines for the establishment of joint degrees and has gained valuable experience through joint master programmes with partners in Europe and Canada. We have worked to establish robust and sustainable joint degrees encompassing education and research and they have added an academic value to our institution. The establishment of joint degrees is a joint effort at all levels of the organisation.

Mobility and cooperation projects within the Erasmus+ Programme

UiT will maintain its strong focus on participation in European programmes and welcomes improved synergies between education, research and innovation as announced in the new Erasmus+ Programme and its link to Horizon Europe. The convergence will create a better potential for transversal cooperation possibilities, which in turn will have a positive effect on the outcome of project participation, both for UiT and for our partners. UiT seeks to maintain, develop and to further explore its involvement in KA1, KA2 and KA3. As for KA1, "UiT will facilitate increased international mobility" according to our strategy. Future participation in European mobility and International Credit Mobility (ICM) projects is thus essential and will constitute a comprehensive part of UiT's involvement in the new programme. UiT has seen an increase in granted ICM projects, which we consider an indication of having succeeded in building up competence in this field. KA2/KA3: UiT has gained valuable experience through its participation in several Strategic Partnerships, an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master, applications for Capacity Building and European University. In the new programme UiT welcomes the possibilities to participate in diversified Partnerships for Cooperation under KA2. We believe this will encourage more involvement among staff. UiT also has ambitions towards Partnerships for Innovation and Partnerships for Excellence. In order to further UiT's role in contributing to social and policy developments in the High North, as well as highlighting their connections to broader issues and concerns, at the European but also at the global level, future participation in KA3 will be very relevant. This view is also consistent with the broader strategy of "Developing the High North", which relates for instance, to sources of vulnerability and resilience in society and its resources. This entails complex challenges, which necessarily require cooperative policy initiatives at the European level.

Quality in education

UiT will offer research-based education of the highest international quality standards. The programme portfolio will be broad and diverse. New educational tools and student active learning methods have been developed and are subject to continuous improvement. UiT will continue to develop the use of digital examination forms in all relevant programmes of study and furthermore facilitate flexible and web-based teaching methods.

Innovation and entrepreneurship

UiT will develop its programme portfolio and education quality in dialogue with students and external partners such as business and industry. Innovation and entrepreneurial competences will be incorporated in all study programmes as generic competences. UiT will seek to increase the number of students completing their final thesis in cooperation with a company.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

UiT plans to take part in several Erasmus+ activities during the next Erasmus+ programme period, both for KA1 and KA2. UiT considers it important to widen the range of activities and projects in which we take part. We are well experienced with the KA1 activity of the Erasmus+ programme and UiT will also have strong focus on other activities under KA2 as this is important in order to raise the quality of our institution.

Key Action 1, Learning Mobility

UiT will have a strong focus on the mobility part of the Erasmus+ programme. UiT aims to continue the increase of the mobilities for student and staff in the next programme. Implementation of these actions within the Erasmus+ programme is well established at our institution, but constantly reviewed and improved. For inbound students UiT is evaluating the admission process in order to further improve the quality of inbound exchange. Issues not directly related to academic matters, such as social issues, are also examined and evaluated as this have an impact on mobility. For outbound mobility, UiT aims to

match the number of inbound and outbound mobility to a greater extent. A new team for outbound exchange has been established and new routines implemented in order to improve numbers and quality. UiT will also focus on increasing the number of traineeships including entrepreneurships. This applies to fields of studies where UiT has much experience, such as health sciences, but will especially apply within fields of studies where traineeships are less common. UiT has experience in Blended Mobility and will seek to incorporate this concept in our study programmes. We will also focus on any national initiatives for this type of mobility.

In addition to student mobility for studies and traineeships UiT will also have strong focus on staff mobility. An interdisciplinary staff mobility team, coordinated by the International Cooperation Section, has been established. UiT aims to further increase the number of staff and teacher mobility in the next Erasmus+ programme. UiT will continue participating in the International Credit Mobility (ICM) activity as we have gained valuable knowledge and experience with this activity over the past years. Promotion of the International Credit Mobility (ICM) activity has contributed to this and UiT aims to continue the work.

Key Action 2. Cooperation among organisations and institutions and Key Action 3 Support for policy reform

Participation in Partnership for Cooperation is of strategic importance in the next programme period. UiT has valuable experience with Strategic Partnerships and is expected to take the lead in future Partnerships for Cooperation. UiT is currently increasing our experience in this field in order to better guide faculties and academic staff. More focus on this activity should lead to an increase of projects in the next programme. UiT considers participation in partnerships for cooperation important in terms of the strategy. The same applies to Erasmus Mundus Joint master degrees. Our institution is currently involved in three Joint master degrees and one Erasmus Mundus Joint master degree and will proceed with the work of Joint degrees in the next programme period.

UiT will also increase the knowledge and experience in Partnerships for Innovation (former Capacity Building projects and Knowledge Alliances). UiT will build on the experience gained from applications for Capacity Building and further explore the potential for Knowledge Alliances. UiT has gained experience in application for European Universities and has concluded that future applications will require a more strategic selection of partners in order to submit a successful application. In addition to activities within KA1 and KA2, UiT will identify possibilities under activities such as KA3 or Jean Monnet.

Implementation of mobilities within KA1 is a cooperation between central and faculty level in our institution as both levels have different tasks in terms of student and staff mobility. The same applies to KA2, where both levels cooperate closely when identifying, applying for and implementing new projects in our institution. This is essential to succeed with measures and goals within all the described activities. Participation in these actions will be important tools for UiT to achieve the objectives in our strategy. International cooperation with partner institutions abroad, cooperation projects and student/staff mobility contribute to diversity and quality of our institution.