

APPROVED BY the Order No. Įsak-62
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University of Applied Sciences



INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY 2021-2025

Kolping University of Applied Sciences (hereinafter KUAS) attaches great importance to the development of internationalization in the fields of teaching, research and administration, promoting cooperation with higher education institutions, enterprises and other social partners around the world. International cooperation is very important in improving the quality of studies and work, mobilizing national and international resources for the implementation of joint projects.

Being in close connection to the international Kolping Society/Community, KUAS strives for solidarity, social responsibility engages in joint educational and social projects and further strengthens the development of an international and intercultural area of study process, research and administration.

KUAS places great emphasis on digitalization of the administration and study processes by encouraging students, teachers and staff to reduce paperwork and “switch” to electronic version of documentation, video lectures, etc. including mobility management.

KUAS implements principles of sustainable development, paying especial attention to the environmental protection by approving “KUAS Environmental Protection Policy” and following its requirements. To promote personal responsibility and environmental awareness, KUAS implements *Environmental protection policy* which among other means includes the following: to integrate environmental protection themes into study programmes; to improve knowledge of the staff on different environmental issues; to encourage use of friendly means of transportation; to digitalize study process, etc. KUAS conducts national and international research on environmental issues in order to analyze and publicize research-based practices.

To assure quality of the implementation of the strategy constant monitoring and evaluation will be performed by regular on-line surveys, feedback from participants, reports, dissemination of experience, etc. Monitoring and assistance is provided based on the principles of equality, academic responsibility, cooperation and the efficiency of KUAS activities.



VISION

Kolping University of Applied Sciences is the institution of higher education aimed at developing educational activities of the *International Kolping Society*. It is responsive to changing environments and provides an opportunity for students to become highly-skilled specialists, to consciously perceive and disseminate truth and goodness, following the Christian values and the principles of community.



MISSION

To train professionals with a higher college qualification and the underlying Christian morality in their activities; to ensure modern study process in accordance with the requirements of European Higher Education Area and in close cooperation with the social partners; to develop students' key competences and promote active citizenship necessary for graduates' work and continuing studies; to educate and ennoble society by developing its spirituality, humanitarian, professional and information culture, solidarity and subsidiarity, fostering Catholic values, understanding of the universal good, and using the Catholic campus ministry, competence and contacts of the International Kolping Society.



CULTURE

The main feature of KUAS culture is great attention and respect for the student's personality, developing the sense of community, constant help in forming Christian moral attitudes and accumulating internal powers for the humanization of the social and economic environment of our country. KUAS is guided by the general moral principles of the Kolping Society, based on Christian social teaching, which forms a Catholic approach to the values of life and work activities. KUAS activities are based on the principles of sustainable development, covering key areas: social well-being, environmental sustainability and economic well-being.

The internationalization strategy of KUAS is based on its vision, mission, and experience gained from and existing international cooperation and projects. KUAS envisages the following **strategic goals** of internationalization development, which would help to implement the strategic directions of KUAS development provided for in the institutional strategy:

1. Embedding the **culture** of global understanding, sustainability, multiculturalism, tolerance into overall activities (including studies and research, administration and management, marketing and communication) of KUAS, carried out by administration, academic staff as well as students.
2. Promoting **international mobilities** of students, teachers, administration and researchers for study, teaching, training, and research purposes.
3. Internationalizing of the **study process** by preparing study programmes to be implemented at the international level and ensuring the readiness of the academic staff to work with foreign students and colleagues.
4. Promoting and expanding international **scientific research** cooperation and research activities on the international level.
5. Enriching the internationalization of studies and research through strong **strategic partnerships**.

The implementation of the international strategy will involve and benefit three main stakeholder groups: 1. Students; 2. Community (teachers, researchers, administrators, social partners, local community); 3. International partners (existing partners and future partners).

Means to Achieve the Strategic Goals

Goal 1. Embedding the culture of global understanding, sustainability, multiculturalism, tolerance into overall activities (including studies and research, administration and management, marketing and communication) of KUAS, carried out by administration, academic staff as well as students.

The specific measures for embedding the culture of global understanding, sustainability, multiculturalism, tolerance into KUAS activities are the following:

- Promoting of the development of student and staff intercultural competences.
- Encouraging compliance with the general moral principles of the Kolping Society, including principles of transparency, equitable access and inclusion of students and staff.
- Implementing principles of sustainable development in the international activities of KUAS.
- Updating information regularly to support and emphasize opportunities participation and involvement in KUAS for the staff and students internationalization process.

Goal 2. Promoting international mobilities of students, teachers, administration and researchers for study, teaching, training, and research purposes.

The specific measures for promoting exchanges for students, teachers and staff are the following:

- Providing academic support services and advise for students, teachers, researchers and administration personnel that complete exchanges at KUAS (using the existing services of the International Office, Student Service Centre, “Student to Student” mentoring system and academic centers).
- Providing attractive and interesting courses in English, regularly updating the course catalogue and providing information for incoming students on the website.
- Integrating incoming students into KUAS students’ community and everyday life of the university.
- Ensuring that all KUAS students and staff who plan exchanges abroad receive advice on academic and non-academic matters (e.g. regarding full automatic recognition of all credits gained for learning outcomes).
- Ensuring that staff is given recognition for their teaching and training activities undertaken during the mobility.

- Ensuring the international ability to train and work of graduates at home and abroad, as well as promoting their mobility and flexibility.
- Facilitating participation for people with fewer opportunities, including economic, social, health reasons.

Goal 3. Internationalizing of the study process by preparing study programmes to be implemented at the international level and ensuring the readiness of the academic staff to work with foreign students and colleagues.

The specific measures for internationalizing of the study process are the following:

- Gradually internationalizing of the curricula and teaching methods at KUAS in cooperation with local and international partners.
- Enhancing of the intercultural and international skills, including language proficiency, of teachers, researchers and administration in teaching, research, and advisory capacities.
- Integrating the intercultural dimension into the whole study process.
- Constantly improving the quality of teaching and research with internationally orientated contents and measures.
- Encouraging mobility periods and further education abroad, such as Erasmus Staff Weeks.
- Updating the content of study programs, subjects and teaching / learning methods by integrating the knowledge and experience gained in international mobilities.

Goal 4. Promoting and expanding international scientific research cooperation and research activities on the international level.

The specific measures for promoting and expanding international scientific research cooperation are the following:

- Encouraging researchers to participate in collaborative research projects at the international level.
- Promoting the organization of international academic conferences in KUAS and encourage students' research work.
- Encouraging young teachers and researchers from KUAS to attend summer schools abroad.
- Encouraging researchers to apply for research program grants and awards with an international orientation.
- Promoting researchers to represent KUAS in international scientific conferences and to publish their research results in international scientific publications.

Goal 5. Enriching the internationalization of studies and research through strong strategic partnerships.

The specific measures for enriching the internationalization through strategic partnerships are the following:

- Strengthening and expanding collaboration with the institutions of International Kolping Society and taking advantage of the competence, and connections of international Kolping network.
- Increasing number of partner institutions abroad while selecting them according to the quality standards, similar size, goals and in congruence with values of KUAS.
- Increasing and activating memberships in international organizations.
- Promoting intercultural communication and cooperation of the Kolping community with existing and new partners (participation in study exhibitions, joint organization of international conferences and events, participation).

**CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND
ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS IN 2021-2023**

EVALUATION CRITERIA	Units of measurement	ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS		
		2021	2022	2023
Share of students admitted from abroad (per cent) of all students admitted in that year (for studies and / or internships)	Share of students admitted from abroad (per cent) of all students admitted in that year (for studies and / or internships)	3 percent	4 percent	5 percent
Share of study programs taught in English (per cent) of all study programs	percent	75 percent	75 percent	100 percent
Number of new joint subjects / modules with other Lithuanian and / or foreign higher education institutions	units	-	1	1
Number of lecturers' scientific publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, referenced in international databases (units)	units	4	5	5
Number of national and international scientific and / or practical conferences (units)	units	3	4	4
Number of papers presented by the KUAS academic staff at national and / or international conferences (units)	units	4	5	5
Number of papers presented at students' national and / or international conferences (units)	units	8	10	12
Proportion of students who have published articles and / or presented papers in national and / or international conference publications out of all KUAS students (per cent)	percent	10 percent.	12 percent	14 percent
Proportion of students who went to study at foreign higher education institutions or do internships (per cent) of the total number of students of the KUAS	percent	4 percent	4 percent	5 percent
Proportion (per cent) of lecturers who went to teach or train at foreign higher education institutions out of the total number of lecturers of the KUAS	percent	25 percent	30 percent	30 percent
Proportion of KUAS non-academic staff who had internships at foreign higher education institutions or organizations (per cent) of the total number of KUAS employees	percent	15 percent	20 percent	20 percent
Proportion of foreign students who came to study at the KUAS or do an internship (per cent) of the total number of students at the KUAS	percent	1 percent	1 percent	1 percent
Proportion of lecturers who came to teach or do internships from foreign higher education institutions (per cent) of the number of KUAS lecturers	percent	10 percent	12 percent	12 percent
Share of study programs prepared to be taught in a foreign language (per cent) of all study programs	percent	75 percent	75 percent	75 percent
Number of memberships in international associations / research networks (units)	units	3	4	4
Number of cooperation agreements with international partners-foreign higher education institutions, other educational institutions (units)	units	20	21	22