

<b>PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>2</b>
OPENNESS AND PLACING STUDENTS FIRST	2
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY	2
FREE EDUCATION	2
EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION	3
<b>EVERYDAY STUDENT LIFE</b>	<b>3</b>
SUBSISTENCE	3
STUDENT HEALTH CARE	4
WELL-BEING	5
EXERCISE	6
<b>INTERNAL UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS</b>	<b>7</b>
WORK PLACEMENT	8
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND CAMPUS NETWORK	9
ACCESSIBILITY	10
DIGITALISATION OF EDUCATION	10
STUDENT COUNSELLING	11
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION (RDI)	12
<b>THE STUDENT UNION AND STUDENT ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>13</b>
POSITION OF THE STUDENT UNION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES	13
STUDENT ORGANISATIONS	13
SOCIAL ADVOCACY	14
APPLICATION SYSTEMS AND QUOTAS	14
MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES	14
INTERNATIONALISATION	15
FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES	15

## PRINCIPLES

### OPENNESS AND PLACING STUDENTS FIRST

Our decision-making process is open and transparent. Openness maintains our credibility, activates students and functions as a quality control tool. The importance of openness is considered in the development of Helga's operations. Helga communicates to its entire membership about its operations in a goal-oriented way and strives to prevent inequality in participation.

Haaga-Helia considers the needs of students, involves them in the development of higher education and supports cohesion in the community. Helga recognises the importance of the work done by associations and works closely with them. This student-oriented approach is evident in all the university's operations, because students are involved in the planning and implementation stages of any decision that affects them. All the university's bodies and working groups listen to students when it comes to questions about the development of education and the education environment.

Students are more motivated to develop and take part in their education environment when they have the opportunity to help shape it. For Helga to function effectively, decisions must be made democratically by its members.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Combatting climate change and promoting social sustainability are important long-term goals because they affect people globally. Failure to combat climate change is one of the most significant threats to our future.

Helga supports recycling, reuse and reducing emissions both directly in its own operations and by encouraging other actors, especially Haaga-Helia, to do the same. Sustainable development and responsibility are a consistent theme throughout the student union's advocacy activities. Helga observes the implementation of the social sustainable development commitment (Sitoumus 2050) issued by Haaga-Helia and Haaga-Helia's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030. Helga promotes sustainable development in social advocacy. When choosing partners, Helga prefers ethical partners that operate in an environmentally and socially sustainable way.

### FREE EDUCATION

A highly educated population is an extremely important enabler of social and economic well-being. Higher education increases social mobility. We see education as a right that belongs to everyone, not as a commodity to be sold. As the working environment changes faster and faster due to digitalisation and automation, there may come a point when there is no longer enough work in its current form to employ everyone. We see adult education and further education as a solution to the challenges brought on by a changing working environment.

## Poliittinen ohjelma

Free education offers everyone the opportunity to obtain a university degree regardless of socio-economic background or nationality. Free undergraduate and postgraduate education is vital for the development and economic growth of Finnish society. In the future, students from non-EU and non-EEA countries taking part in international education programmes must also be entitled to free education. Through its activities, Helga promotes free degree programmes at all academic levels. Helga encourages Haaga-Helia to invest in Scholars at Risk activities to help protect academic freedom internationally.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

All people are born equal and are entitled to the same inalienable basic rights. Higher education is equally available to everyone regardless of age, ethnic or national background, nationality, language, religion, conviction, opinion, wealth, state of health, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or other personal characteristics.

Helga opposes all discrimination, actively works to ensure it does not take place in the university community and observes principles for a safer space in its events. Through its activities, Helga promotes anti-racism and intersectional feminism.

- Haaga-Helia takes human rights questions into consideration in its operations both in Finland and abroad.
- Haaga-Helia campuses have gender-neutral toilet facilities.
- Single-user toilet facilities will be converted to gender-neutral toilets.

## EVERYDAY STUDENT LIFE

### SUBSISTENCE

The purpose of financial support for students is to enable them to give their full attention to their studies. This is made possible by sufficiently large study grants. The amount of student loans taken out by students has more than doubled in the past ten years, and students are increasingly relying on loans to finance their studies as the amount of available grants decreases. Social benefits for students must be sufficient to enable continuous learning and the completion of a second qualification. The social security reform must examine students' subsistence comprehensively with the aim of implementing an unconditional universal basic income.

Full-time study is principally recognised as a student's full-time job. More than 70% of working students at universities of applied sciences report that they work in order to afford their studies (KOTT21). Every student must have the opportunity to cover their living expenses with study grants and housing allowance. A sufficient income improves the stability of students' lives and their well-being. Cost of living for students means

## Poliittinen ohjelma

expenses resulting from things such as housing, study materials, food, hygiene products, clothing, transport, health care and recreational activities.

Students are entitled to meal subsidies. The subsidies must also provide a balanced, high-quality lunch to students who follow special diets.

The purpose of continuous learning is to enable people to develop their skills and knowledge and update them to correspond with the needs of working life. Continuous learning is supported by providing financial aid for studies.

- Students' subsistence is provided from public funds.
- Students are provided with financial support that allows them to cover their cost of living and undertake full-time studies.
- Students must have periods during which they can take time off from studies and work. These include, for example, holidays and the period between Christmas and New Year. Students cannot be obligated to study or work during public holidays without a good reason.
- The current student financial aid model will be developed to lean heavily on study grants, and study grants will be tied to the cost-of-living index. Student loans are not considered income in the event the student applies for social assistance.
- Students' housing arrangements or place of employment during or after their studies does not affect the amount of student loan compensation they are eligible for.
- Study grants will receive a general increase so that they cover students' cost of living.
- The annual income limit of study grants is tied to the cost-of-living index.
- The number of months of aid will be increased, and students who have obtained a second degree will be eligible for full months of aid.
- In the long term, the study grant system will be developed towards the goal of instituting a universal basic income in which a support system that is not based on loans exists to guarantee the basic subsistence of students.
- The household-based nature of housing allowance will be phased out.
- Season tickets and single tickets for public transport services are always available to students at a discount of at least 50 per cent.
- The HSL discount is tied to students' place of study instead of their place of residence.

## STUDENT HEALTH CARE

The FSHS must also serve exchange students and international degree students who do not have insurance under the Health Insurance Act. The FSHS works closely with higher education institutions, especially when it comes to preventive counselling and support services. The therapy guarantee must be implemented in such a way that the need for care is assessed immediately when the patient seeks care, and psychotherapy or other psychosocial care must begin within one month. Helga advocates for the development of systems that promote students' well-being and health both independently and as an active member of SAMOK and the Finnish Student Sports Federation.

## Poliittinen ohjelma

Student health care must be organised within the framework of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health's (MSAH) recommendations.

- The level and availability of services provided by the FSHS is the same for all students in higher education, including exchange students.
- The FSHS fee may not be raised by more than EUR 10 per year.
- FSHS services and communications are available in Finnish, Swedish and English.
- Municipal services and FSHS services must operate together seamlessly.
- FSHS remote consultation is also available to short-term students and students who are undertaking a work placement abroad.
- FSHS services are easy to contact and respond within a reasonable amount of time when contacted through channels such as chat services.
- When students contact the FSHS, their need for care must be assessed within one working day.
- The queue length for health and wellbeing services can be viewed in places such as the FSHS website and mobile application.
- Students receive the same level of health care services regardless of their municipality of residence.
- The FSHS cooperates with municipalities and/or wellbeing services counties to provide free contraception for students in higher education.
- Helga has regular representation in the FSHS's Service Regional Management Group and Council, as well as Haaga-Helia's health working group.
- The FSHS's dermatology, psychiatry and gynaecology services will be restored.
- Local government provides menstrual products and other relevant products free of charge through student health care for students at all academic levels.

## WELL-BEING

Today's student is tomorrow's worker. Students' well-being during their period of study is important for their transition to working life. Students in higher education are more likely to experience psychological symptoms than the rest of the population, with 35 per cent of students responding to the KOTT21 survey reporting symptoms of anxiety and/or depression. Adequate support and counselling services reduce the number of students who cut their studies short despite wanting to continue. Investing in the well-being of students helps prevent the deterioration of their ability to study and improves their ability to cope in working life.

- Haaga-Helia will improve the low-threshold availability of well-being services by taking measures such as investing in relevant human resources.
- Well-being services are adequately visible. The services are made available in two languages in a form that is as accessible as possible by, for example, offering them remotely.
- Haaga-Helia's support and well-being services are available on all campuses as necessary.
- To support students' mental well-being, the university offers recommended services, such as study psychologists and professional special education teachers. There must be at least one additional study psychologist for every 2,000 students.
- Students are provided access to spiritual care services.

## Poliittinen ohjelma

- Students who study full-time (~5 credits per month) at an open university must have a degree-student-equivalent entitlement to higher education well-being services.
- Students have breaks in their studies to allow them to remain alert during teaching sessions.
- The health security of Haaga-Helia's premises will be developed using the information from the FSHS's educational institution environmental surveys.
- Students have the option to stand during teaching sessions, and teaching facilities are ergonomic.
- The university informs students of matters related to well-being, such as well-being services and recommendations concerning exercise and ergonomics.
- The university organises well-being-related events for all Haaga-Helia students.
- Teaching or counselling staff must be equipped to report any concerns they have regarding students due to sudden abandonment of studies or other reasons through channels such as the notification of concern (huoli-ilmoitus) system run by municipal social services.
- Haaga-Helia's counselling and support services and their contact details are accessible and available in one place, such as Haaga-Helia's website.
- The university must organise regular meetings between students and student counsellors.
- The number and availability of peer support groups that can address different life situations will be expanded.
- Each group has its own coordinator that can be contacted in difficult situations.
- Each year, Helga has a representative in Haaga-Helia's well-being working group and other Haaga-Helia working groups that focus on student well-being.
- Students are offered the opportunity to access voluntary job consultation throughout their studies.
- Students receive sufficient high-quality guidance in completing their studies throughout the duration of those studies.

## EXERCISE

Regular exercise promotes students' well-being and ability to cope and helps prevent social exclusion. Exercise also has a positive effect on mental coping. More than 57 per cent of students at universities of applied sciences do not receive the amount of exercise proposed in the recommendations on physical activity for health (KOTT2021). Students' financial situations must not be a barrier to exercise.

- Student exercise is organised at Haaga-Helia in accordance with the recommendations on physical activity in higher education, and student exercise opportunities will be established on every Haaga-Helia campus or in their vicinity. Exercise opportunities are also available online.
- Student exercise is fully funded by the university.
- The university will commit to developing physical exercise services for students.
- Technology and gamification will be used to develop and diversify student exercise.
- Campuses offer equipment for exercise during breaks.
- All campuses have secure bicycle storage facilities.
- The university offers students free access to sports facilities.
- The range of exercise opportunities on offer to students is extensive and considers special needs, such as students with reduced mobility.
- The university works closely with exercise service providers.

## INTERNAL UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Helga supports good undergraduate degrees and various postgraduate and further education programmes to enable people to utilise new knowledge in their work and maintain their professional skills. Lifelong learning must be an attractive option for individuals, and opportunities for it must be available throughout a person's career.

Studies completed outside the university must be considered effectively in the process of recognising prior learning (RPL). Recognition of prior learning is a tool for expediting studies. This must be governed by national guidelines and be an integral part of university of applied sciences education that is agreed upon individually between the student and tutor. Sufficient time resources must be secured for teaching staff for the purposes of RPL and other practices aimed at recognising skills and knowledge. Direct substitutions are accredited automatically. The studification of work, hobbies and volunteering is emphasised, and it is a broadly recognised way of completing studies.

The quality of teaching is actively monitored by collecting feedback from students, which is used to improve teaching. Students must always receive a response to their feedback. Interaction in teaching will be developed. In addition, course contents, teaching devices and software are kept up to date by updating them when necessary.

Different forms of study take into account students' different ways of learning, and these must be available in higher education according to students' needs. Courses offer different teaching methods. Assessment criteria and assignments related to a course are explained during the course's opening lecture, and the real workload of the course does not exceed 27 hours of study per credit. Course completion methods and workload are based on the curriculum and do not vary based on implementation. Projects and course contents oriented towards working life are added to courses continuously, and elective studies comprise at least 10 per cent of the degree programme's duration. Work & Study, studification and accreditation are clear to students, and sufficient information about these is provided regularly.

The university ensures that teaching staff have the pedagogical skills required for higher education, as well as access to tools for developing their pedagogical skills. Every member of teaching staff must also have the necessary digital skills to ensure a high quality of teaching. Teaching staff regularly participate in job placements to keep their professional skills up to date. The university must also offer regular equality and non-discrimination training to all members of staff. The requirement concerning the pedagogical skills of teaching staff in the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences will be restored.

Student activities are seen as an important quality control tool that the university utilises in planning the contents of education programmes and courses. Students are represented in every administrative body of Haaga-Helia.

## Poliittinen ohjelma

Haaga-Helia's library services are developed to ensure they serve students' needs better than ever. The collections and services of libraries are available for free to all students, regardless of campus. The online library's collection will be expanded, and its main emphasis will be placed on e-books. The collection of books is up to date and is updated regularly. There are a sufficient number of desktop computers available for students at the libraries or in their vicinities, and rental laptops are also available.

- The process of recognising prior learning must go smoothly, regardless of course. The RPL process must not present a greater workload than completing the course otherwise.
- The workload of completing a course independently must correspond to the workload of completing the course by attending classes.
- Degree regulations, other regulations and assessment guidelines are easily available to students.
- Elective studies comprise at least 10 per cent of the degree.
- Assessment criteria and any assignments involved in a course are explained in the course's opening lecture.
- Study module assessment criteria or course completion method shall not change part way through the course unless the completion method is individualized.
- Studification and other methods of completing a degree are achievable for all students, and studification opportunities and assessment are not dependent on the instructor.
- Daytime learning students have the opportunity to include open studies that are taught remotely in their degree.
- Haaga-Helia utilises existing data and supplements it where necessary to develop studies in order to meet the needs of future working life and to ensure students' good professional growth.
- The real workload of the course does not exceed 27 hours of study per credit.
- Documents that describe students' rights are easily and publicly available (degree regulations, other regulations and general assessment guidelines, etc.).

## WORK PLACEMENT

Work placements are a mandatory part of a degree from a university of applied sciences, and their purpose is to reinforce the student's knowledge and skills, give them connections in working life and offer concrete work experience to support their studies. Work placements give students insight into their field and offer them the opportunity to complete their thesis during the placement. The university must ensure that every student knows their rights and obligations when they start their work placement. Unpaid work placements reduce the number of jobs available in the industry because they encourage companies to use students as additional labour. Helga promotes paid work placements for all students in higher education. Students must have the opportunity and right to rest and take a summer holiday, and summer must not be the only possible opportunity for students to undertake a work placement.

- Before the placement, a work placement agreement is drawn up, which specifies the student's learning outcomes, duties and placement supervisor.
- Work placements can generally be completed during the academic year, outside holiday periods.



## Poliittinen ohjelma

- The student's role is that of a student throughout the duration of the placement, and the company offering the placement is responsible for ensuring the student is not left unsupervised at their workstation.
- The student's working hours shall be the same as those of the permanent employees working at the company offering the placement.
- As compensation for their work contribution at the placement, the student shall receive sufficient compensation to cover their cost of living, corresponding at minimum to the trade union's recommended work placement wages or another equivalent indicator if the relevant union does not have a recommended work placement wage.
- Haaga-Helia and Helga do not arrange unpaid work placements.
- At the work placement, the student is provided with an orientation to their duties, and the employer is responsible for providing the student with instruction throughout the duration of the placement.
- During the placement, the student must always be provided with duties that develop their skills and correspond to their training.
- The university offers students guidance on finding and completing their work placement.
- The university pays particular attention to improving work placement opportunities for international students so that the duration of their study programme is not extended unnecessarily.
- Students who are undertaking a work placement must have insurance through the university or the company offering the placement for the duration of the placement.

## LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND CAMPUS NETWORK

The premises of Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences must be fit for purpose in terms of size, furnishings and equipment. Classroom facilities are ergonomically durable and offer different options for attending lectures (such as sitting or standing).

Education programmes that take place in several different locations must be organised in such a way that, if possible, students who begin the programme at a specific location can perform the entirety of their degree at that location. The university must strive to minimise the negative effects caused by physical distance. Helga does not support the consolidation of the campus network. By emphasising greater collaboration between education programmes, we create a better framework in which to grow a sense of community and improve the ease of studies.

The opening and closing times of study facilities on campuses must be consistent and sufficient to allow students to study during weekends as well. Comfort is improved and the student community's activities are supported and enabled by students' "own" spaces that can be used for relaxation. Student organisations and student activities generally have enough space to meet their needs.

- All Haaga-Helia locations have sufficient and equal facilities for students, staff and education programmes in general.
- There are wall sockets in classroom facilities and other study spaces.
- Individual education programmes are not generally spread across several campuses.

## Poliittinen ohjelma

- The negative effects of physical distance must be taken into account in joint courses and projects between different education programmes.
- The scope of students' knowledge and skills is expanded by encouraging them to also undertake studies in other 3AMK partner universities, MOOC, Ulysseus courses and other open programmes. The accreditation process for these must be easy.
- The number of professional special education teachers will not be reduced.
- The university's internal post travels between all campuses.
- The university is responsible for the facilities and equipment needed for student activities.
- Courses must have a sufficient number of places.
- Campuses have good network connections available to students using Wi-Fi or a physical interface.
- Each of the university's campuses have spaces for students that have broader opening and closing times than the rest of the campus. Access to the spaces is guaranteed with systems such as passes. These spaces allow for free-form leisure activities.
- The number of spaces that are open for booking will be increased.
- The bookable spaces must have facilities for remote study and a sufficient number of plug sockets, tables, chairs and computers with the necessary software.
- Haaga-Helia provides every student with the required productivity software and data security services.
- Functional and up-to-date tools and devices, such as laptops and headphones, are available for loan to students.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is taken into account in all Haaga-Helia operations. Accessibility does not only address physical barriers, but also mental, psychological and social barriers. All facets of accessibility are always considered when renovating, building or modifying campuses. Accessibility is also considered in Haaga-Helia's and Helga's communications. The organisations' publications are available in two languages, and all videos must have subtitles.

- All Haaga-Helia campuses are accessible.
- The university conducts an annual accessibility survey on its campuses and virtual learning platforms, as well as Haaga-Helia events and communications.
- Teaching staff must acknowledge the statements written by special education teachers regarding teaching arrangements and the need for special support.
- Haaga-Helia has guidelines for staff and students regarding learning disabilities and other factors that may affect learning. The guidelines specify different completion criteria and obligations for teaching and other staff.

## DIGITALISATION OF EDUCATION

The process of digitalising education is methodical, and digitalisation is built into universities' pedagogical development work. The whole world is viewed as a learning environment, which means that it is also important to ensure that data can be accessed on mobile devices, regardless of where and when. Loan devices

## Poliittinen ohjelma

are available to people who cannot buy a device of their own. Haaga-Helia provides students with the necessary productivity software and data security services regardless of campus.

Universities use common standardised interfaces. Universities follow open access principles in all their publications.

- The quality of virtual teaching must be on the same level as classroom teaching.
- Teaching staff have sufficient digital skills, and these skills are updated regularly by Haaga-Helia.
- All mass emails/communications sent by teaching staff must adhere to GDPR.
- Students must be able to complete courses regardless of their device's operating system (PC, Mac or Linux).
- The university must ensure that every student has the necessary IT skills by familiarising them with all systems used by the university, and instructions must also be available on the university's website.
- Digital platforms related to students' studies are consistent and accessible.
- The variety of available digital courses will be increased and they will be developed continuously.
- Students have access to alternative digital platforms that make their everyday lives easier, such as websites that are optimised for mobile.
- New students entering higher education take an IT competency test so that they can be directed to the appropriate courses and instructions to support their IT skills.

## STUDENT COUNSELLING

The criteria for high-quality counselling are comprehensiveness, availability and adequacy. In addition, counselling must be spread evenly across the student's studies, beginning before they start them and continuing after graduation.

Sufficient resources must be ensured for student counselling to give students the necessary help and guidance they need in organising their studies. Haaga-Helia must provide equal, high-quality student counselling. High-quality student counselling is individualised, flexible and furthers the student's studies. It also aims to ensure the student's graduation and success in their studies.

Counselling is most important during turning points in the student's academic journey, such as at the start of their programme of study and at graduation, when the student's transition to working life and possible postgraduate studies must be taken into account. Generally, it is important for students to have the same counsellor throughout the course of their studies.

- Haaga-Helia must look for ways to expand the times counselling is available and offer electronic counselling services.
- The number of counsellors is sufficient, and they must be guaranteed sufficient time resources to provide students with adequate counselling.

#### Poliittinen ohjelma

- Counsellors' contact details are easy to find, and organising an appointment with them is also easy.
- Counsellors are provided training on the courses available for different degree programmes and learning paths and on changes in the demands of working life.
- Guidance counsellors receive training regularly, and the university ensures that their counselling skills are up to date despite, for example, structural changes to teaching.
- Counselling must be student-oriented and consider the individual's needs in all stages of their academic journey. Regardless of the education programme, counselling must be improved, with particular attention to the multifaceted requirements of high-quality counselling.
- Counselling must recognise any prior learning that can be accredited.
- Counsellors are able to inform students of any opportunities created by education reform to tailor the contents of their degree to better correspond to their ambitions.

### RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION (RDI)

RDI advances research activities within the university and creates development work that serves regional needs. In addition, participating students gain valuable experience of taking part in RDI.

- With the current situation in higher education, it is important to advance and develop the RDI activities of universities of applied sciences and deepen and support cooperation between university students and the work community in their field.
- Every aspect of RDI activities must function well.
- Students are encouraged to get involved in RDI projects, and students' RDI work is a consideration in the internal funding allocation model.
- Students and other stakeholders are notified of RDI projects.
- Universities of applied sciences and other universities have equal access to project funding.
- 3AMK is visible to students and actively participates in the development of RDI activities.
- 3AMK offers students opportunities to undertake studies that rely heavily on innovation and RDI.
- Students are adequately informed of StartUp School activities and have ample opportunities to participate as part of their studies.

## THE STUDENT UNION AND STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

### POSITION OF THE STUDENT UNION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Section 41 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act defines the position of student unions within universities of applied sciences. The duties and requirements described in the act will be guaranteed going forward. Students are represented at every level of administration. The student union appoints student representatives to all working groups that operate at the university level.

Finland has one university law, under which there are different types of universities. Universities differ by teaching methods and educational mission, but their staff and students are equal under the law. Students graduate from universities in accordance with the national framework, and their studies entitle them to postgraduate studies regardless of university.

The position of student unions will be standardised. Student union funding is based on public funding and support received from the university to ensure the prerequisites of effective student union operations are secure.

- The student union has permanent representation in the university's management group.
- Students have a voice at every level of the university's decision-making.
- Meetings between the management of the university's education fields and students will be standardised.
- The student union's operations are funded by Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences and public funding.
- The student union's role as Haaga-Helia students' expert organisation and advocacy group is widely recognised.
- The student union is systematically funded, and its funding is secure in the long term.

### STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

When planning for the future of the network of universities of applied sciences or making any changes to the network, its availability to everyone must be taken into account. Students must be offered student organisations that support their studies and social networks.

The purpose of student organisations is to represent the students in their field. With the education reform, students have the opportunity to choose their own study path. IDS Helga – International Degree Students of Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences – is responsible for representing international degree students. ESN Helga – Erasmus Student Network – is responsible for the exchange experiences of Haaga-Helia's exchange students. Both organisations are part of Helga.

## SOCIAL ADVOCACY

Helga actively advocates among stakeholders and participates in discussions surrounding themes that have a direct or indirect effect on students of universities of applied sciences.

- Students of Haaga-Helia are represented in stakeholder organisations that operate in areas that affect students in higher education, such as the FSHS, Hoas and HSL.
- Helga cooperates with World Student Capital (WSC) to improve the everyday lives of students and people who live in cities.
- Helga's positions are respected in stakeholders' decision-making.

## APPLICATION SYSTEMS AND QUOTAS

The education programmes that are merging due to the education reform and the new orientations created in the process must be strongly profiled to ensure the value of degrees does not fall as students transition into working life.

Every joint application applicant is treated equally, and applicant quotas will be phased out while still ensuring an equal application process for everyone. Everyone who has completed secondary education is eligible to apply for a study place in the joint application.

The student intake will be adjusted by using careful forecasting to consider the educational responsibilities and profiles of the universities in the region and the requirements of working life. Students are provided with accurate information about available student spaces. Universities draft common transition practices that guarantee students the opportunity to swap their place of study by giving up their old study entitlement.

- Parallel Finnish-language and international application options are separate degree programmes, but equivalent degree programmes offer opportunities for more flexible study.
- The transfer application process between education programmes runs smoothly.
- Secondary education credentials must be treated equally when applying for university, and available student spaces allocated based on them should be distributed evenly.
- The admission ratio between selection based on school certificate and selection based on entrance exams should be even.
- Every joint application applicant is treated equally, and quotas for first-time applicants will be phased out.

## MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES

The degree name of a master's degree from a university of applied sciences must be Master of Applied Science (MASc). This will strengthen the significance of master's degrees from universities of applied sciences and highlight the knowledge of the person who has completed the degree to employers. Master's degrees from

### Poliittinen ohjelma

universities of applied sciences should provide equal opportunities to continue on to doctoral studies as a master's degree from another university. Currently, Haaga-Helia and many other universities require 24 months of work experience following the completion of a bachelor's degree before applying for a master's degree in applied sciences. The entry requirements for master's degrees in applied sciences must be based on ability in such a way that it is possible to continue directly from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree or to enter at a later date, with work experience considered a benefit.

- The required work experience includes work placements completed as part of specialised studies.
- A person who has just completed a bachelor's degree at a university of applied sciences is eligible to directly enter a master's degree programme in applied sciences.
- The degree name of a master's degree in applied sciences is Master of Applied Science (MAsc).

## INTERNATIONALISATION

Significant emphasis is placed on internationalisation in studies. All degree students have the opportunity to participate in an international exchange programme or internationalisation at home activities. Staff are also encouraged to participate in international exchange programmes.

Universities support the integration of international students into Finnish society and university communities, strengthen their connections to the working community of their field and invest in improving international students' language skills.

Tuition fees for students from countries outside the EU/EEA will be phased out. Before this goal is achieved, tuition fees will be set at a reasonable level and grant systems will cover an adequate portion of tuition fees. Education export services do not incur charges for private individuals. The customer is always an organisation or the state, which covers any education charges.

- International students require a Finnish/Swedish language proficiency of level B2/YK14 to graduate.
- Upon graduation, international students automatically receive permanent work and residence permits.
- Teaching staff assigned to international programmes possess sufficient language proficiency.
- Students who speak Finnish as their first language require an English language proficiency of level B2/YK14 to graduate.
- The English language skills of teaching staff must be at the level required for the task.

## FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES

The administration and funding of universities of applied sciences are developed continuously so as to ensure the maximum operational independence for the universities. During administrative changes, it is important to ensure that student representation remains at least as strong as it was before the change.

The funding criteria are weighted towards results and focus on qualitative indicators, which are monitored and developed with consideration for educational needs. The consideration of graduates' ability to find

#### Poliittinen ohjelma

high-quality employment must be ensured in the funding model, and, in addition to student feedback, the funding model will also be developed using other qualitative indicators. Students' RDI activities will also be considered in the university of applied sciences funding model. The relationship of counselling and support services to recommended practices will be compared, and part of the funding model will be based on this relationship.

- During financially difficult times, the first target for cuts will not be the quality of teaching.
- In addition to completed degrees, the emphasis on results in the funding model also considers academic performance through indicators such as credits.