



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI AFRICA PROGRAMME 2021-2030

The University of Helsinki (UH) is a community of research and learning based on courageous thought and dialogue with a mission to seek new knowledge and enable solutions. We believe that knowledge and learning are for everyone. Our ambition is to increase our global impact and build a more sustainable world together with our African partners.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

The University of Helsinki has versatile research in Africa. We build on groundbreaking basic research, open-minded curiosity and cooperation that transcends boundaries to address the key challenges of our times: mitigating climate change, preserving biodiversity, using natural resources sustainably, safeguarding health and wellbeing, enhancing quality education and maintaining social cohesion.



KEY ACTIONS

- Build mutually beneficial and equal partnerships with African partners. We are committed to continuity.
- Forge two strategic partnerships in Africa and a small number of other priority partnerships
- Boost cooperation crossing disciplinary boundaries, embedding natural and life sciences with the humanities and social sciences. Multidisciplinarity is vital in everything we do.
- Strengthen research infrastructure together with local partners
- Identify key Sustainable Development Goals
- Increase leverage through networks, e.g. UNA Europa and UniPID
- Support Open Science, access to knowledge and knowledge co-production
- Create improved conditions for the cultivation of talent, recruitment and inclusive university
- Focus on young scholars and doctoral education

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Kenya is among top-5 countries in our research collaboration. Since 2011, we have a research station in Taita Hills, Kenya. The University of Nairobi is our most important Kenyan university partner with strong research co-operation in several fields. A strategic partnership will be kicked off with the University of Nairobi.



KEY ACTIONS

- New research collaboration with the University of Nairobi, three spearheads:
 - One Health
 - Food Security
 - Teacher Education
- Increased virtual and physical mobility
- Mentoring
- Capacity building
- One Health Early Career Champions Programme

EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION

Currently, UH has around one hundred degree students from Africa (2019). Many more study as exchange students, at the Open University or in Helsinki Summer School. Our programs offer tuition on African languages, Global South, sustainability and tropical forestry, as examples.

UH has capacity building projects especially in Kenya.

UH's centre for continuing and transnational education HY+ is keen to develop its actions in Africa.

KEY ACTIONS

- Increase the diversity of UH's classroom to better reflect UH's global impact and responsibility
- Provide educational opportunities for African students for the advancement of their personal academic and professional goals, also benefiting their countries and communities
- Intensify student recruitment through key partnerships and by strengthening UH's local presence
- Raise awareness of scholarships to African students and explore opportunities for targeted scholarships
- Solve key stumbling blocks in recruiting students from Africa
- Develop on-line platforms and interaction as part of resilient internationalisation together with our partners (webinars, MOOCs)
- Encourage CBHE (Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education) and HEI ICI (Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument) applications and increase information about available support
- Explore potential for continuous and transnational education and integrate them into UH's activities

THE ONE HEALTH EARLY CAREER CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME supports the cultivation of talent and career advancement of early career researchers at the University of Helsinki and University of Nairobi, with a focus on mobility, mentoring and entrepreneurial skills. The program is open for doctoral students in all disciplines and faculties with a focus on One Health.



MOBILITY

UH provides exciting exchange opportunities for students and staff. We have exchange agreements with several African universities (2020):

- University of Namibia
- University of Zambia
- University of Stellenbosch
- University of Nairobi
- The American University in Cairo
- Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah (science)
- University of Cape Town (law)
- Strathmore University (education)
- University of Abomey-Calavi (agriculture and forestry, biology, social sciences, medicine)

KEY ACTIONS

- Intensify mobility with key partners: focus on quality and reciprocity
- Increase awareness of mobility opportunities and solve problems regarding arrival and integration
- Enhance virtual mobility
- Share insight on capacity building and boost intra-Africa partnerships

IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

UH will cultivate its global responsibility and sustainable development by active engagement with key stakeholders. It will develop education collaboration and support the improvement of skills in developing countries.

KEY ACTIONS

- Define most important stakeholders and increase dialogue with them
- Integrate Africa-related research and teaching into Finnish society, with particular emphasis on connections with the African diaspora in Finland and on increasing factual knowledge of Africa in Finnish society
- Identify spearheads for industry collaboration
- Engage more closely with Helsinki Think Company, particularly in supporting early-stage entrepreneurship
- Examine potential for fundraising on the basis of close, solution-oriented research and cooperation
- Explore launching alumni activities in Africa
- Host an Africa Day each year
- Intensify interaction and dialogue within the university, drawing on the expertise of both students and staff.

