

AUDIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Authors **Tatjana Volkova, Hans Gruber, Siamäk Naghian, Kateryna Suprun, Mira Huusko & Sirpa Moitus. Self-assessment of the University of Vaasa (eds.) Marja-Liisa Hassi & Tanja Risikko.**

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Premise and implementation of the audit

- Assessment of the audit team

The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) has conducted the audit of the University of Vaasa (UVA). The work of FINEEC is based on the principle of enhancement-led evaluation and producing impactful information that contributes to the enhancement of education.

The purpose of the FINEEC audit framework is:

- to evaluate whether the quality work in the HEI meets European quality assurance standards
- to assess whether the quality system produces relevant information for the implementation of the strategy and the continuous development of the HEI's activities, and whether it results in effective enhancement activities
- to encourage internationalisation, experimenting and a creative atmosphere at HEIs
- to accumulate open and transparent information on quality work at Finnish HEIs.

The principles of the audit framework are described in [the audit manual](#).

Implementation of the audit

A four-member audit team carried out the audit. The members of the audit team were:

- Professor Dr. **Tatjana Volkova**, BA School of Business and Finance, Riga, Latvia (chair)
- Professor Dr., Dr. h.c. **Hans Gruber**, University of Regensburg, Germany
- CEO, Dr. **Siamäk Naghian**, Genelec, Finland

- Doctoral Researcher **Kateryna Suprun**, Tampere University, Finland.

Counsellor of Evaluation Dr. **Mira Huusko** from the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre was the audit's project manager, and Counsellor of Evaluation **Sirpa Moitus** was the backup project manager.

The audit is based on the material submitted by the higher education institution, a self-assessment report, additional material requested by the audit team, and the audit team's site-visit to the institution between 25 and 26 September 2024. The audit team also had access to essential digital materials and systems. The main stages and timetable of the audit were:

Agreement negotiation	21.8.2023
Appointment of the audit team	28.1.2024
Submission of the audit material and self-assessment report	18.6.2024
Information and discussion event at the HEI	3.9.2024
Audit visit	25.-26.9.2024
Higher Education Evaluation Committee's decision on the result	17.12.2024
Publication of the report	17.12.2024
Concluding seminar	13.1.2025
Follow-up on the enhancement work	2028

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation areas I-III are each assessed as one entity using the scale *excellent*, *good*, *insufficient*.

The level *excellent* means that the HEI shows evidence of long-term and effective enhancement work. The HEI's enhancement activities also create substantial added value for the HEI, its stakeholders or both. The HEI presents compelling examples of successful enhancement activities.

The level *good* for evaluation areas I-III is described in appendix 1.

The level *insufficient* means that the HEI shows an absence of or major shortcomings in systematic, functioning and participatory procedures in the evaluation area (I-III). There is no clear evidence of the impact of quality management in the enhancement of activities.

In order for the HEI to pass the audit, evaluation areas I-III should reach at least the level *good*.