

AUDIT OF VAASA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

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The premise and implementation of the audit

- Assessment of the audit team

The work of the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) is based on the principle of enhancement-led evaluation and producing impactful information which contributes to the enhancement of education.

The purpose of the audit model is

- to evaluate whether the quality work in the HEI meets the 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, and
- to accumulate open and transparent information on quality work at Finnish HEIs.

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

The implementation of the audit

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

- Professor, Rector Emerita **Eva Werner**, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria (Chair)
- Higher education Policy Advisor **Touko Apajalahti**, Technology Industries of Finland
- Bachelor Student **Jade Brouns**, Fontys Institute for Applied Sciences, the Netherlands

- Quality Manager **Tero Janatuinen**, JAMK University of Applied Sciences.

Sirpa Moitus from the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre acted as project manager of the audit and Hanna Väättäinen from FINEEC acted as her pair and backup. The audit is based on the material submitted by the higher education institution, self-assessment report, additional material requested by the audit team and the audit team's virtual visit to the institution 23–24 March 2021. The audit team also had access to essential electronic materials and systems.

The main stages and timetable of the audit were:

Agreement negotiation	14 November 2019 Amendment: 16 April 2020
Appointment of the audit team	22 April 2020
Submission of the audit material and self-assessment report	31 December 2020
Audit visit	23–24 March 2021
Higher Education Evaluation Committee's decision on the result	16 June 2021
Publication of the report	June 2021
Concluding seminar	23 June 2021
Follow-up on the enhancement work	2024

Evaluation criteria

The 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, stakeholders, or both. The HEI presents compelling examples of successful enhancement activities.

The level *good* for the 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, the evaluation areas I–III should reach at least the level *good*.