

HÄME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES IS A KEY DEVELOPER IN THE REGION

1. We attract young people and international talents to Kanta-Häme

- The future of our region and the way our vitality develops will be built through new talent. We use new learning methods to educate problem-solvers and innovators for the world of work. Our students work closely with representatives of the world of work from the very beginning of their studies. They learn to tackle problems and create solutions through student projects, theses and internships.
- About three quarters of our students come from outside Kanta-Häme and 14% from abroad.

Our wishes for decision-makers

We need to make both Finnish and international experts feel welcome and encourage more of them to stay in the region. This requires concrete actions and cooperation between higher education, businesses, municipalities and the county. The services for families must also be taken care of, as many of the international students have a family.

When municipalities and counties enhance the availability of internships and jobs in the region, more students are able to join the local labour market already during their studies. We hope that our regional decision-makers will support the renewal of the labour market and increase the competitiveness of our region.

HAMK is growing, so it is important to ensure that there is enough student accommodation in the area, with good access to the campuses and suited to people in different life situations.

2. Building international and attractive higher education cities and towns

- We are strongly committed to developing all our seven campuses.
- In Riihimäki, we are planning a new, growing central campus next to the railway station. In Hämeenlinna, we are working with the city to find a suitable location for a possible campus in the city centre. The new campus projects will enhance the appeal of HAMK and bring a breath of life to city development.

Our wishes for decision-makers

There is a need for long-term development work and a shared vision, because vibrant, attractive university cities and campuses are created through cooperation, always looking ahead.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY ELECTIONS 2025

3. Our applied research boosts the vitality of the region and businesses

- Universities of Applied Sciences have a statutory role of supporting regional development and business renewal. We work closely with the local industry. We want to find the best solutions for developing businesses so that we can create more added value, stimulate exports and boost economic growth.
- Our applied research provides solutions for raw material production, the circular economy, sustainable construction and the built environment, and future skills and education.
- Our research is guided by a firm emphasis on usefulness. Our research activities range from student brainstorming projects to cutting-edge international research. We are all about practical experimentation. They are the first step towards new products, processes and a transformation of corporate culture towards one that values knowledge and co-creation.
- HAMK is the most significant recipient of research funding in the region. Our research activities are growing steadily, and our goal is to reach €30 million in research funding by the end of this decade.

Our wishes for decision-makers

Finnish higher education policy has fallen significantly behind European development. To ensure that HAMK and the region remain attractive and competitive in the future, we need to introduce degree rights and titles in line with European practice: a practice-oriented, business-driven doctorate (Professional Doctorate) and the Finnish titles of Professor (Professori) and Master (Maisteri). These are not determined by municipal councils, but the support of regional decision-makers is important.

Let's work together to ensure that we find the best models for each region and its businesses, and that together we can seek and exploit all the opportunities for EU funding for the region.

HAMK in a nutshell

- Over 10,000 students, of which more than 800 are international students paying tuition fees
- A multidisciplinary higher education institution with almost 50 degree programmes, plus a range of continuous learning opportunities
- Seven campuses: Hämeenlinna (University Center and Evo), Riihimäki, Forssa, Tammela (Mustiala), Hattula (Lepaa), and Valkeakoski
- Revenue of 67 million euros (2023). Research volume approximately 15 million euros
- Strong connection to local businesses and world of work in both education and research: we collaborate annually with about 1,000 companies
- Our students are among the top in founding companies: 7.7% of our graduates were entrepreneurs five years after graduation

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