KARELIA STUDENT EXCHANGE SUSPENSION FOR AUTUMN 2020

Dear Karelia partners,

As there is still evolving uncertainty with the Corona pandemic and, from HEI point of view, its impacts into possibilities to implement the international student mobility actions safely, Karelia University of Applied Sciences has decided to formally suspend both the inbound and outbound student mobility programme for Autumn Semester, 2020.

Karelia's first priority is to ensure the safety of the students and ensure safety and well-being of the whole higher education community. Therefore, considering the health risks associated with COVID-19 and the uncertainty in tackling the possible second Corona virus wave, we believe this decision is in the best for the students in these current circumstances. Moreover, The Rectors’ Conference of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences Arene, has decided to recommend all the Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences to cancel the student mobility programmes for Autumn 2020.

Your students, who have already applied for the inbound student exchange in Autumn Semester 2020, will be advised about this decision by our international relations coordinators. We do our best to encourage the students to re-apply for spring intake. Information on the courses offered in Spring semester will be available in September. Possibilities to offer the exchange semester partly or fully digitally in some fields is explored and informed within the near future. If you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact: mobility@karelia.fi

Even though this decision is difficult and cancelling mobility is definitely a disappointment for many of the students, we think this is the best to do to ensure the safety. There will be plenty of opportunities to continue later on, and we wish that during the time there will be even more opportunities to encourage both the mobility and digital exchanges.

Joensuu, 20. May, 2020

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