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UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU



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Jani Ahtiainen

Jani Ahtiainen started working in international admissions in 2014 as an application processor and has been working as a credential evaluator at the University of Helsinki since 2018. Currently Jani is co-responsible for the overall application processing for the University of Helsinki international master's programmes and training new staff in application processing and credential evaluation. He is also responsible for developing application instructions for the university's international master's admissions. Jani has attended multiple international credential evaluation conferences and training events and actively follows new developments in verifying credentials. Jani is a member of the International Admissions and Recognition of Qualification group in NUAS.



Karolina Catoni

Karolina Catoni, is the acting director at the International Centre at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. She has more than 15 years' experience in internationalisation of higher education. She is the coordinator of numerous international networks and projects and is the chair of Scholars at Risk – Sweden, a national section of Scholars at Risk with 30 member institutions. Ms Catoni holds a Master of Science in political science from Lund University, Sweden. She is one of two Swedish representatives in the working group on internationalisation within NUAS.



Martin Cloonan

Martin Cloonan is the Director of the Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) at the University of Turku. He is a former chair of the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Finland section and has received grants from the Research Council of Finland and the Kone Foundation to fund the hosting of SAR researchers. Martin's research focuses on the political economy of the music industries. His latest publication is the co-edited collection *Made in Scotland*, a series of essays on the politics of music making in Scotland.



Gabriella Ekström

Gabriella Ekström has been working as an admissions officer at Dalarna University since 2018. To some extent she also works with tuition fee matters. She has quite a lot of contact with their international students after admission as well. Dalarna University is a small university and many kinds of questions, e.g., residence permit issues, end up on her desk.

Gabriella is truly passionate about her work. She really enjoys figuring out ways to make things run more smoothly – while remaining an “admissions officer” of course. One of the true joys of her work is seeing the students she admits at the orientation day for international students and then seeing the same students at graduation ceremony a couple of years later.



Ína Dögg Eypórsdóttir

Ina Dögg Eythorsdottir is a project manager at the University of Iceland and a credential evaluator at ENIC/NARIC Iceland with over 10 years experience in both international admission and other recognition-related issues at institutional, national and international level. She has also worked on various European projects involving recognition of prior learning, digitalization in the educational environment and best practices in the field of recognition and international admission.

She works with national governmental agencies and ministries in implementing RPL at university level in Iceland. Ina studied International Marketing at the University of Reykjavik and holds a M.Sc. degree in Finance and International Business from Aarhus University. She is the Group Leader of the NUAS group International Admissions and Recognition of Qualifications, and a member of the Board of NUAS.



Liisa Hannus

Liisa Hannus (MA) is an Education Specialist in SIMHE Services (Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education) at the University of Turku. SIMHE Services are for highly educated immigrants to recognize their competencies and to guide them to suitable study and career paths. During the year 2023, there's also a special project of SIMHE-Ukraine where Liisa is working.

She works as a counselor, a Finnish language and culture teacher and an education specialist. She has extensive experience working as a teacher from 1st grade pupils in elementary school to post-doctoral researchers in university.

She is interested in how to create sustainable studying paths for educated people to support their integration into the new country.



Fridrika Hardardottir

Fridrika Hardardottir received her Master's and PhD in immunology from Yale University, USA. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale, she returned to Iceland for a research position at Landspítali University Hospital and later a start-up pharmaceutical company. Fridrika joined the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in 2007, where her responsibilities included higher education strategy and policy making. In 2013 Fridrika joined the University of Iceland as the head of the international division, which oversees international relations, student mobility, and participation in international networks. She is also the Secretary General of the Icelandic Rectors' Conference and organized a Nordic Rectors Conference in September 2023 on the Challenges of Nordic and Baltic Universities in international collaboration. Fridrika has served on various administrative committees and boards including the Fulbright Commission, the Watanabe Trust Fund and the NUAS Internationalization group.



Aurora Hultqvist

Aurora Hultqvist works as an admissions officer for Uppsala University and she is a group leader for one of the Swedish Council for Higher Education's virtual groups that nationally assesses all foreign qualifications for admission. Aurora started working as an admissions officer at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science in 2015, and joined the virtual organization as an officer at the same time. Her areas of expertise involve the Nordic countries, United Kingdom and Ireland, China and southeast Asia, Southern Europe and Latin America. She has been a part of the NUAS International Admission and Recognition of Qualification group since March 2022.



Ann Rishøj Jensen

Ann Jensen started working full time with Master Admission at Aalborg University in 2019. She processes applications to the English taught full degree master's programmes including checking that the applicants meet our admission requirements and that they have uploaded the required documentation. In this regard she is also involved with creating content and structure at their websites. Beside this she works with handling tuition fees, applications fees, scholarships, and residence permits for our non-EU students. This includes charging fees, delegating scholarships in collaboration with the departments and filling out the institutional part of the student's residence permits applications.

Personally, she lives in a small town in North Jutland with her almost two-year old son Karl-Anker and boyfriend Jonas.



Paula Järvinen

Paula Järvinen is a Marketing Planner at the University of Turku. Her main responsibility is the marketing and recruitment for international master's degree programmes.

Paula graduated as a Master of Social Sciences in 2020 and has studied Communications and Marketing. She has worked in student recruitment and marketing for a couple of years.

Before joining her team in University of Turku, she was working at the University of Helsinki.



Jukka Kola

Professor Jukka Kola is **Rector** of the **University of Turku** (since August 2019). From 1992 onwards, he held Professorship of Agricultural Policy and Economics at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Helsinki.

During the period of 2013–2018, Professor Kola was the **Rector** of the **University of Helsinki**, and Vice-Rector in 2010–2013. He served two terms as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry in 2004-2009.

Now, 2022-2023, he serves as Chairman in the Rectors' Council of the Finnish universities **UNIFI**.

In the League of European Research Universities **LERU**, Professor Kola served as a member of the **Board of Directors** in 2016–2018 and in the Rectors' Assembly years 2013–2018. Since 2020 he has been a member in the Rectors' Advisory Group RAG of the **Coimbra Group**, and since 2022 a member of the Council of the European University Association **EUA**.



Joanna Kumpula

Joanna Kumpula is the head of international education and integration support at Tampere University. Before joining Tampere University, Joanna worked in several positions in international student marketing, recruitment and admissions in the university sector, was the marketing manager for Study in Finland brand and has also managed her own university consulting agency. Joanna's professional interests lie in service design, international student journey development and understanding student audiences. Joanna has been a member of the EAIE General Council since 2020.



Kaisa Kurki

Kaisa Kurki coordinates the Finnish University Partnership for International Development, UniPID, a network of nine Finnish research universities. UniPID's aim is to advance member universities' global responsibility and bring Global South perspectives into their education, research and societal impact activities. Previously, she was Head of Study and Academic Affairs at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä, Manager for International Affairs at Tampere University and Director of International Education Services at the University of Tampere. With 20 years of experience in international education and higher education, she has been the Director of the network hosted by the University of Helsinki since March 2023. She holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Tampere and is currently conducting doctorate in higher education research. UniPID recently published Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Academic Partnerships with the Global South in collaboration with TENK, the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity.



Johanna Kärki

Johanna Kärki has been working in international admissions and recognition of qualifications as well as with international degree education for more than 10 years. Her current position as International Education Specialist at the University of Turku focuses on international admissions and development of international degree education. Ensuring that all applicants are treated equally and students receive the level and quality of education they were promised are key aspects of her responsibilities. She is enthusiastic about developing admission processes and learning more about recognition of qualifications and different educational systems around the world.



Eeva Liinamo-Liukku

Eeva Liinamo-Liukku is in charge of international student recruitment at Aalto University in Espoo, Finland. With an academic background in communications and business, Eeva has worked in the higher education sector for most of her career in Finland as well as in Australia. She is passionate about international higher education and its ability to change the lives of individuals and the world for the better.



Maria Lindblad

Maria Lindblad has worked with international communication, marketing and recruitment for over 17 years, both within higher education and in the corporate world. The last 13 years, she has worked as a Strategic Recruitment Manager at Lund University in Sweden. She is one of the original members of the International Marketing and Recruitment Team that was formed in 2010, when the Swedish government introduced tuition fees for international students studying in Sweden. During this time, the focus of the team has been setting up the university's student recruitment strategies, creating brand awareness and developing marketing and recruitment tools to maintain the university's position as the most popular in Sweden with students from over 130 countries on campus.



Laura Lindeman

Laura Lindeman works as Senior Director and Head of Work in Finland Unit in Business Finland. Work in Finland unit aims to attract experts and international startup companies to Finland and channel the expertise of international talents to boost growth, innovations and internationalization of companies.

Laura has worked with international talent attraction and retention development for 15 years from many different angles. She has created career services for international students, developed international recruitment services for companies and initiated the national Talent Boost initiative and programme together with the large ecosystem of stakeholders around Finland. Linking international talent management to economic, innovation and labour policy has been in the heart of her career.



Nikolaj Lubanski

Nikolaj Lubanski is COO of Copenhagen Capacity. He holds a Ph.d. in Sociology and a BBA in Business Administration. Nikolaj has been with Copenhagen Capacity for 10 years, initially employed to build up the talent attraction department. Now he is part of executive management and overall responsible for new business areas, larger projects and partnerships. Over his career, Nikolaj has held CEO positions both in the private and public sector, always working on increasing international cooperation.



Chris Lyons

Chris Lyons is the *Head of External Engagement* at UK ENIC / Ecctis. His role focusses on communicating UK ENIC's work, services and solutions to sectoral stakeholders and listening to the challenges faced. He is a regular company presenter and speaker. He has worked at the organisation for 16 years.

As *Head of Research and Data*, Chris supervised the development of grade comparisons, TNE profiles and International Entry Qualifications studies. He led research benchmarking international secondary schools in the International Research Group (2007-2012). More recently he has developed methods for evaluating incomplete qualifications and microcredentials, and a framework for comparing international awards.

He is the chair of the Standards and Quality Committee for TAICEP in 2023, the Vice President elect for the Resource and Knowledge Management Committee and the UK ENIC Quality & Standards Group (2016-date).



Oddrun Walstad Maaø

Oddrun Walstad Maaø has worked with various aspects of internationalization at NTNU since 2000, including admission of international Master's students, management of exchange students and recognition of credentials. Since July 2021 she has been working as the institutional coordinator of the European University Alliance ENHANCE, where NTNU is a partner university.

Responsible internationalization is very high on the agenda for ENHANCE, as shown in the mission and vision of the alliance. In addition, two of the pilot topics of the alliance are *Smart and Sustainable Cities* and *Climate Action*. She has been a member of the NUAS IARQ-group since 2020.

In her spare time Oddrun enjoys hiking with her little dog, both in the winter and summer. She also likes to spend time with her family, read books and travel.



Birgitta Schiørring Madsen

Birgitta Schiørring Madsen, MSc, Senior Consultant and Head of International Office & Accommodation Office at Aalborg University, Denmark.

Since 2010 I've been involved in areas like international mobility for students, Erasmus+, exchange agreements & partners and many other international related topics at Aalborg University.

Has taken part in the NUAS working group "Internationalization" since 2015.



Madeleine Mattsson

Madeleine is currently working as an Admissions Officer at Uppsala University. She has spent most of her professional life working with student relations in one way or another, having previously worked with both international student recruitment and alumni relations for the university. Before she joined Uppsala University, she worked at the Swedish Institute with among other things scholarships for international students and relationship-building projects between Sweden and SI's fellows.

In her spare time, Madeleine is an avid reader, enjoys playing boardgames and spends most weekends trying to improve her curling game.



Ole Petter Ottersen

Professor Ole Petter Ottersen was the University of Oslo's elected President for the period 1 August 2009 – 31 July 2017. From 1 August 2017 to 28 February 2023 he served as the President of Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. Ottersen has for many years been engaged in international institutional evaluations and has served as panel leader (both Advanced Grants and Synergy Grants) in the European research Council (ERC). He is currently Acting General Secretary and formerly (2016-1017) Founding President of the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities – a European university network. Ottersen is currently a member of the Sounding Board for the European Parliament studies on academic freedom and he has written extensively on the importance of academic freedom and institutional autonomy whilst being particularly engaged in recent debates on academic freedom in the context of international academic cooperation.

Ottersen has served at a number of boards at home and abroad. He has several honorary doctorates and has received a number of awards. He is editor of several books and his work has been cited close to 50 000 times (Google Scholar).



Irinja Paakkanen

Irinja Paakkanen (MSoc in International Law, Åbo Akademi University) is the head of international affairs at the University of Turku, Finland. During her over 30 years in internationalisation she has supported University wide internationalisation and strategic planning, international partnership and networks such as Coimbra Group, UArctic, Southern African Nordic Centre SANORD, University Alliance EC2U, Scholars at Risk (SAR) among others. Defending human rights and supporting academic freedom as well promoting Nordic cooperation is close to her heart. During the years Irinja has been involved in international degree admissions, student exchanges and managed external projects incl those supporting international talents in Finland or eight large scale EU-funded Erasmus Mundus Action 2 projects.

Irinja is a member of the Finnish Universities' Network for strategic internationalisation and currently serving as the Leader of NUAS group for Internationalisation.



Zahra Elmira Jahanshah Rad

Zahra Rad is a Doctoral and Project Researcher in Materials Physics at the University of Turku. Her PhD thesis is about improving the efficiency and working lifetime of electronic and photovoltaic devices, which are made of semiconductors – devices like solar cells, smart phones, laptops, etc. She is a co-author of more than 18 peer-reviewed articles and is involved in commercialization activities of four patent families where she is also co-inventor. Besides physics, Zahra is interested in philosophy, cognitive sciences, social sciences, and environmental issues. When Mahsa/Jina Amini passed away under the Morality Police arrest in Iran in 2022, Zahra started her human right activities on and off the campus and organized events related to women and university students in Iran who have been suppressed by the government.



Catarina Ståhle-Nieminen

Catarina works as an Education Specialist at the Study Administration of Tampere University for international master-level education in the Faculty of Social Sciences, for the field of health sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Technology, and for the field of biomedical technology. She has 25 years of working experience in this field.

Catarina's main responsibilities are the practical coordination and study administration of two international MSc programmes, the Master's Programme in Public and Global Health and the Master's Programme in Biomedical Technology. Her responsibilities include coordinating the processes of student admissions and graduation, curriculum work, internship practices, student guidance and counselling, among many other tasks.

She is one of the Finnish representatives in the NUAS group International Admission and Recognition of Qualifications.



Bettina Sümegi

Bettina Sümegi is a credential evaluator at the Swedish ENIC-NARIC where she is responsible for Central- Eastern and Northern European countries and for methodology development. She has more than 10 years of experience in credential evaluation. Prior to the Swedish office she worked at the Hungarian ENIC-NARIC. Bettina is Vice-President at TAICEP responsible for advancing best practices of credential evaluation. She has an interest in digital transformation and has been involved in a pilot project of DigiNet concerning European Digital Credentials and in the recently started DigiLink project exploring the use of EDC for recognition organizations and data integration opportunities between ENIC-NARIC and higher education institutions. Bettina is currently studying Artificial intelligence at university.



Jukka Tanskanen

Jukka Tanskanen is a senior science adviser at the Research Council of Finland (RCF). He received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Eastern Finland. He was a materials physicist at Posiva, an expert organization in nuclear waste management, and a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University before joining RCF in 2014. At RCF he has a variety of responsibilities such as management of the RCF's international collaboration activities (inc. North America and Europe) and supporting science policy decision-making. He is currently on a leave of absence from RCF and working at the Ministry of Education and Culture as a Senior Specialist. At the Ministry, he focuses on international science policy with particular emphasis on responsible international collaboration.



May Linn Tarasenko

May Linn Tarasenko is currently Coordinator for International Master's Admissions at the University of Oslo. She has developed a comprehensive understanding of international admissions, having previously worked at the University of Agder for over a decade. She has a degree in Political Science, which has equipped her with a skillset useful in her work. May Linn's professional interests are centered around the digitalization of the public sector and the quest for increased efficiency without compromising the delivery of high-quality services. She is a strong advocate for fair and equal treatment, both in education and in society at large.

Beyond her professional pursuits, May Linn is a dedicated volunteer for Red Cross search and rescue. When she's not otherwise engaged, she enjoys the serenity of nature, spending time on outdoor adventures.



Hege Toje

Dr. Hege Toje serves as a senior adviser at the Norwegian Directorate of Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir), Dept. of Global Cooperation and Capacity Building. She has headed the project of developing Norwegian National Guidelines and Tools for Responsible International Knowledge Cooperation, launched in August 2023. With a PhD in Social Anthropology, Toje has extensive research experience from Russia and the northwestern Caucasus. She previously held the position of a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bergen and has been a Fulbright scholar at Harvard University (MA). Since 2015 her professional focus shifted towards analysis and evaluation in the realm of international cooperation in higher education with a particular emphasis on collaboration with Eastern Europe, the south Caucasus, and Central Asia.



Stefan Törnqvist

Mr Stefan Törnqvist (born 1968) is since 2018 Head of the Office for International Affairs at the Swedish Research Council, a Government agency under the authority of the Ministry of Education and Research with a leading role in developing Swedish research of the highest scientific quality. He has more than 20 years' experience of international coordination and as a policy analyst. He has extensive experience in strategy and policy formulation in international relations as well as representing Sweden in international fora, including issues such as responsible internationalisation and the European Research Area. Mr Törnqvist has a Masters' degree in International Relations and is a retired Captain of the Swedish Army Reserves.



Leena Wahlfors

Dr. Leena Wahlfors is Director of Partnerships and Strategic Engagement at the University of Turku. She received a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Helsinki in 1990, and a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Jyväskylä in 2004. In her doctoral thesis she examined the management by results process at the University of Jyväskylä from a critical point of view using two sociological analytical devices, fashion and social interaction, as developed by Georg Simmel. Dr. Wahlfors has also published articles in the field of higher education research. She has a particular expertise in the areas of university management and strategies, evaluations, and the societal impact of universities.

Dr. Wahlfors has previously worked as Director of Strategy at the Academy of Finland, Executive Director of the Universities Finland Unifi, the Finnish Council of University Rectors, and in development policy planning and advisory roles at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to her position at the University of Turku, she was Director of Education at the University of Applied Sciences of South-East Finland.

