

Audit of Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology LUT



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Abstract

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Decision of the Higher Education Evaluation Committee on the audit

The audit of Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology LUT was approved on 25 August 2026. The university was awarded the Quality Label of the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC), which is valid until 16 June 2033.

A successful audit demonstrates that LUT University's operations and quality system meet the national criteria as well as the European standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education.

Follow-up

The audit follow-up of Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology LUT will be carried out in 2028.

The audit team's assessment of evaluation areas I-II

I: Strategic management supported by the quality system: *Good*

II: Learning supported by teaching and guidance: *Good*

The strategic cross-cutting theme chosen by LUT: *Internationalisation*

General observations by the audit team

LUT University demonstrates a clear and ambitious strategic direction grounded in regional and national needs, as well as its own strengths and growth areas. This vision is reinforced by a strong culture of ambition and a consistent drive to excel across the organisation, with tangible results such as increased external research funding and a growing international student population. Internationalisation is a core strategic priority, deeply embedded in all activities. The organisational culture is agile and engaging with low hierarchies and approachable leadership.

The university adopts an integrated and developmental approach to quality management. Rather than relying on highly formalised quality assurance processes, responsibility for quality is distributed across institutional roles and embedded within normal university activities. The institutional quality culture is strongly informed by the “Plan–Do–Check–Act” (PDCA) cycle and a commitment to continuous enhancement.

The audit identified many examples of effective practice across LUT’s research activities, stakeholder and industry engagement, collaboration in programme design, curriculum review, pedagogical development, and support for internationalisation. Staff and students consistently highlighted strong teacher engagement, supportive learning environments, and the integration of research and industry perspectives within programmes.

The audit also identified a strong institutional willingness to improve. Staff and senior leadership demonstrated openness regarding current challenges, particularly in relation to rapid growth in student numbers, increasing internationalisation, pedagogical development, workload management, and the impact of digitalisation and artificial intelligence on teaching and assessment.

However, the audit also identified several recurring themes relating to consistency, monitoring, and institutional oversight especially in education. While responsibilities for quality management of education are clearly articulated within the Quality Manual, there is some variation in implementation of processes and the quality of their application across programmes and schools.

LUT has made internationalisation a genuine institutional priority and has taken many concrete actions to support it. The main development need is not the absence of activity. Rather, it is the need to make the systems behind these activities more visible, more consistent, and more clearly evidence-based. At the same time, sustainable internationalisation also depends on strengthening an inclusive everyday culture in which

Finnish and international students and staff can participate, interact and feel part of the same university community.

Overall, the audit team found that LUT University demonstrates a strong strategic commitment to research, educational quality, student-centred learning, internationalisation, and continuous enhancement. The university benefits from a highly engaged academic community, strong collaboration with industry, and well-developed pedagogical support structures. To further strengthen the consistency and sustainability of educational quality, the university would benefit from more systematic institutional oversight, clearer monitoring processes, stronger quality assurance mechanisms, and more robust evaluation of the effectiveness of enhancement initiatives.

Key strengths and recommendations

Strengths

- The university has a well-considered and ambitious vision and strategy, grounded in regional and national needs as well as its own strengths and growth potential.
- There is a strong institutional commitment to continuous improvement and enhancement, supported by an embedded quality culture and a shared understanding of the PDCA approach.
- The university's student communities are a strong and important resources for the whole university.
- The university maintains active and productive collaboration with external stakeholders, industry, and alumni, strengthening programme relevance and societal impact, as reflected in successful external research funding.
- The university has clear and ambitious visions and goals for its research focused on key societal challenges. It effectively monitors societal impact with regional stakeholders and tracks research quality and impact through national and international evaluations, and actively addresses identified quality issues and operational challenges.
- There is strong alignment between programme development and the university's strategic priorities, including sustainability, internationalisation, research integration, and labour market relevance. Programme development and review involve extensive consultation with employers, industry representatives, national stakeholders, academic staff, and students.

Recommendations

- The university should establish indicators and assessment criteria that clearly reflect its vision, mission, values, and strategic priorities, enabling systematic monitoring of progress at the highest system level.
- The university should ensure clear and timely communication on major administrative and structural changes, including early and meaningful consultation with student representatives.
- The university should further formalise and consistently apply quality assurance and enhancement processes across all programmes and schools to reduce variability in implementation. The university should strengthen follow-up processes for courses and programmes with insufficient quality by establishing clear procedures that ensure corrective actions are implemented, monitored, and lead to the intended improvements.
- The university should continue targeted support for international students' integration into the Finnish labour market and society, with a particular focus on Finnish language skills and stronger links to local industry.
- The university should ensure that the increasing scale and diversity of the student population are matched by adequate resourcing, staff development, and scalable quality enhancement processes.