

## **University of Strathclyde Erasmus+ Policy Statement**

*Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees.*

In its Strategic Plan 2015-2020, the University of Strathclyde sets out its ambition, vision and actions for being a leading international technological university. In broad perspective, this entails: being a place of useful learning, carrying out teaching and research of benefit to society, as intended by the University's founder in 1796, Professor John Anderson; and being international in outlook in everything that we do, in our core areas of education, research and knowledge exchange, and in our operational processes, measuring our performance against global standards.

The Strategic Plan of the University is overseen by its Executive Team, chaired by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, and comprising Assistant Principals, senior staff of Faculties and Professional Services. The approach to internationalisation focuses on: internationally leading research; world leading innovation and impact; global engagement through partnerships; outstanding student experience; and diversity of international staff and student populations at the University. Progress is reported regularly to Court, the governing body of the University.

Partnerships with universities and industries throughout the world in education, research and knowledge exchange are core to the University's mainstream business. The University is in the process of establishing a number of strategic world class links and taking key existing academic links to a higher level. In this context, relationships currently being developed include MIT, New York and Stanford Universities, USA, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Tsinghua University, China, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Student and staff exchange are part of the activities, and have been further supported by the University's Global Engagements programme, involving these and other universities globally in such areas as power and energy, photonics, advanced manufacturing, advanced engineering and bio-nanotechnology. Activity with these global partners is incorporated into relations with European partners, for example in Horizon 2020 projects.

The majority of the University's mainstream student exchange activity takes place within Europe, where students from all backgrounds are strongly encouraged to undertake exchange. Employers are invited to address students on the importance they attach to graduates with mobility, while Erasmus Widening Participation grants are given where eligible, and placements for students with special needs are arranged with Erasmus grants. In Erasmus+, the University is constantly seeking to increase the number of inter-institutional agreements for Erasmus student and staff mobility. Partners are chosen at Departmental level, and are subject to rigorous assessment at Faculty level prior to signature of bilateral agreements, taking into account match of curriculum and expertise in areas concerned, potential quality of student and staff experience across all areas in partners involved, and likelihood of balanced exchange.

For student exchange, the University aims to ensure that outgoing and incoming mobile students have access to: top expertise in other countries; different cultures; different ways of thinking; innovative thought processes; approaches to global societal challenges; and learning the ways of turning research into innovation - overall, an important perspective for "European" or "global" graduates of all three cycles. Underpinning the soundness and quality of experience is the cooperation between the University's Erasmus+ Coordinator, Student Experience and Enhancement

Services, and its Departmental and Faculty Erasmus Coordinators, in ensuring respect for and implementation of the key principles of: bilateral partner agreements; student contracts; learning and training agreements; certificates of attendance; transcripts of records; and student reports. All of this is overseen by an Erasmus+ Group chaired by the University's Assistant Principal for Learning and Teaching.

Staff of the University - academic and administrative - are encouraged to undertake exchange with agreed partners, and international activity, including exchange, is embedded in Strathclyde's Accountability and Development Review of staff. The University aims for all staff to have an international perspective in their thinking and teaching, and to contribute to the phenomenon of virtual mobility for students who do not travel to another partner. Development of joint degrees is an ongoing priority for the University, in order to build on existing successes such as the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters in Global Innovation Management coordinated by Strathclyde. The University's academic community and Professional Services work together to overcome the challenges involved in establishing joint degrees (for example fees, types of award, and quality assurance).

*If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.*

The University is highly successful at collaboration with business and industry, other universities, the public sector and wider civic society. In a European context, this is reflected by involvement in some 130 research projects in FP7, 60 projects to date in Horizon 2020, through participation in 16 education and training projects across the Grundtvig, Comenius and Leonardo actions of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-13, and a number of Strategic Partnership projects to date under Erasmus+. The University wishes to develop and expand upon its record in European education and training projects in Erasmus+.

Promotion, development and organisation of projects under Erasmus+ involve the University's relevant Professional Services Directorates and project leaders in Faculties and Departments. From Professional Services, the Research and Knowledge Exchange Services Department will continue its past work with staff over the full cycle of projects, involving initial information and intelligence, writing of joint applications with partners, negotiation of contracts and consortium agreements, and handling of any problems that arise in projects involving international consortia.

Through its business engagement agenda, in particular through its Technology and Innovation Centre, located in a €100m building in which academic staff and industrialists will work together to set research and education agendas, the University will anticipate how markets are emerging and what users are needing in research and in continuous professional development. In this context, the Knowledge Alliances in Erasmus+ will be of interest and importance, in terms of knowledge sharing, entrepreneurship and possible design of new curricula, involving joint input from the University and its industrial partners, both locally and in international networks.

*Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve.*

Actions in Erasmus+ (E+) are integral to the University's modernisation in accordance with the five key principles of the EU HE modernisation agenda, as reflected in its Strategic Plan. Integrated matches of actions are as follows.

### **Increase graduates and researchers – E+ mobility and Masters facility**

The University aims to encourage students from diverse backgrounds to study here, and to increase its postgraduate research student population to 1750 by 2020, with a significant increase in international students.

### **Improve quality and relevance of HE – E+ mobility and curriculum development**

The University's educational ethos and approach are innovative, collaborative and inclusive, designed to provide an intellectually stimulating environment, with the strategic aim of developing students who are engaged, enterprising, enquiring, and ethically, globally and culturally aware - work-ready graduates with impact who engage with societal and global challenges. This is achieved through student opportunities to participate in internships, placements and employment in industry, public and third sector partners, including international experiences, both within the curriculum and as extra-curricula activity.

### **International mobility – E+ mobility**

The University is committed to increasing its already substantive European and global student and staff mobility, breaking down barriers such as academic mis-match, fear of non-native language and financial costs. The University participated in the ECTS pilot phase post-1989, and has integrated ECTS credits into its class catalogue. Erasmus exchange coordinators and the Recruitment and International Office work closely with students on quality of experience.

### **Knowledge triangle – E+ mobility, joint projects and Knowledge Alliances**

The University is continuing to develop its outstanding record of linking education, research and business in its research and education activity. We are working with global companies and public sector in key technology areas across a range of specialist centres, such as the €100m Technology and Innovation Centre. Our international research community is integral in these, and benefits from the University's Researcher Development Programme, to develop career management skills, and access to modules delivered by the Hunter Centre For Entrepreneurship. The University has Athena SWAN status in recognition of measures to support the careers of women.

### **Governance and Finance - All of E+**

The international agenda of the University is driven by its Court, Executive Team, academic leaders and Professional Services Directorates - a structure within which authority and accountability are clear, enabling effective decision making. Investment funding is secured from public and private sector contributions for initiatives such as the Technology and Innovation Centre, and the €400m estate development, to ensure a modern, digital, fit for purpose campus for the University's teaching and research community.