

## 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 2011-2015, 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 internationalisation strategy of the University is overseen by its International Committee, chaired by the Executive Dean for Internationalisation, and comprising senior members of Faculties and Professional Services Directorates. The approach to internationalisation focuses on six key themes: research and knowledge exchange; partnerships (local, national, global); recruitment and admission; student experience and the curriculum; staff; and, alumni.

Partnerships with universities and industries throughout the world in education, research and knowledge exchange are core to the University's mainstream business. The selection of partners integrates a centralised and de-centralised approach. Through its International Committee, the University is seeking to establish a number of strategic world class links and to take key existing academic links to a higher level. In this context, relationships are currently being developed with New York and Stanford Universities, USA, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and Tsinghua University, China. Student and staff exchange are key parts of the activity, and have been further supported by the University's Global Engagements programme (funded by UK EPSRC), involving these and other universities globally in areas including 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 FP7 projects, to the benefit of research staff and students.

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 For All, the University is seeking to increase the 241 inter-institutional agreements in existence in 2013 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.

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 Masters in Power Plant Engineering jointly with Industrial and Power Association, MBA in Global Energy Industry with Iberdrola, Madrid, and MBA25 jointly with Stockholm School of Economics and Ca Foscari. The University's academic community and Professional Services work together to overcome problem areas in joint degrees (fees, types of award, 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 120 research projects in FP7, and through participation in 16 education and training projects across the Grundtvig, Comenius and Leonardo actions of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-13, in four of which it has been the coordinating institution. Prior to this, there had also been much participation in projects in the Tempus Programme, often as leader. The University wishes to develop and expand upon its record in European education and training projects in Erasmus For All.

Promotion, development and organisation of such projects under Erasmus For All involve the University's International Committee, Professional Services Internationalisation Group, 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 new €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 For All will be of great 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 For All (EFA) 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 and internationalisation strategy.

Integrated matches of actions are as follows.

### **Increase graduates and researchers - EFA mobility and Masters facility**

The University aims to encourage students from diverse backgrounds to study here, and to increase its postgraduate research student population from around 1000 to 1600 by 2016, with a significant increase in international students.

### **Improve quality and relevance of HE - EFA mobility and curriculum development**

The University is evolving an international curriculum, to provide students with: interdisciplinary education; ability to solve problems and think independently; practical learning through projects, placements and internships with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors; acquisition of skills and attributes needed by employers and ability to put skills to immediate use; equal treatment.

### **International mobility - EFA 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, has integrated ECTS credits into its class catalogue, and was complimented by an Erasmus audit team in 2010 on its development of the Diploma Supplement. Erasmus exchange coordinators and the Recruitment and International Office work closely with students on quality of experience.

### **Knowledge triangle - EFA 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 (see above). 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 EFA**

The international agenda of the University is driven by its Executive Team, International Committee and Professional Services Internationalisation Group - a structure in 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.