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## Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

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. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The first of 5 key themes in the University Strategic Plan 2010-15 is "Putting students at the centre of our activities and providing a flexible and relevant curriculum with excellent teaching and learning". Student success is at the heart of the University, and we are driven by offering a high quality learning experience and environment. This approach is global, encompassing all UK, EU and non-EU students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

To enhance the student experience we are committed to increasing our EU and non-EU cohort on campus in Leeds, as well as to providing more opportunities for our UK students to study abroad as part of their degree programme. We offer European and international exchange opportunities to all students, including incoming full-time international students.

At the UK national level, we participated in the expert groups advising the UK HE Minister in the recent Department of Business, Innovation & Skills re-envisioning of outward student mobility which led to the creation of a new Outward Mobility Unit in London.

Our goal for exchange partnerships is to establish relationships with partners on all continents that broadly match our inward student recruitment target markets. Thus in addition to our EU and North American exchanges, we are actively seeking partners in Russia, China, South America and Africa. We explore new exchange partners through direct approaches or via NAFSA, EAIE and other relevant conferences. Criteria used are: academic compatibility; health and safety (through risk assessment and due diligence paperwork); attractiveness to outbound students in terms of academic subjects, geographical location and institutional facilities; whether teaching is in English, or at a language level suitable for non-native speakers; our ability to meet the needs of incoming students; potential for recruitment to our university for Master's courses; academic colleagues' subject interests; and the costs of travel and living in the proposed destination, and for destination students in Leeds.

Student exchanges both in EU and internationally support directly several key strategies in employability, enterprise and developing a global outlook for all our students. The skills, qualities and experiences gained by inbound and outbound students will transfer into their classroom experience as well as into their eventual professional employment, particularly where they have explicitly engaged with employers through work placement or internship opportunities. We are keen to support students from under-represented groups to participate in exchange study, and we are also developing plans for the coming academic year to increase staff mobility both for their own professional development and also to develop further student exchange possibilities.

We have an advanced programme of international student and staff volunteering which also enhances students' employability skills and adds immense value to their student experience. We plan to create more opportunities for international and UK students to participate in volunteering projects at home and overseas, not only to develop and enhance their future employability but also to enrich their on-campus life, providing as volunteering does structured opportunities for UK and overseas students to meet, work and mix together.

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. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Our Strategic Plan commits us to raising student attainment and satisfaction by 2015 and we are on track. Our refreshed curricula contribute to this. Study abroad, exchanges, internships and volunteering play an important part in enhancing student experience. Opportunities for staff mobility enrich our curricula, develop our staff and promote our research. We raised our entry criteria which raises our overall attainment.

Our University Strategic Plan "Quality, Relevance and Sustainability" commits us to improving our education through research, successful learning and teaching, and student attainment and satisfaction. Improving staff participation in mobility schemes enhances enthusiasm for exchanges, which enhances the role of the Erasmus Co-ordinator, who in turn champions more mobility. Recent portfolio changes make it easier for students to bring back academic credit to our programmes. We are improving systems and procedures to make staff and student mobility smoother for participants and partner institutions.

Mobility opportunities and cross-border co-operation benefit us through enhancing staff capacity and capabilities. Teaching mobility develops staff academic expertise, and enhances best practice in our institution. Staff who participate in outward mobility experiences make our University an international campus through sharing knowledge, experiences and skills with the wider group of staff and students.

Links between HE, research and business/professions are strong. Engagement with local, national and international employers is strengthened by international HE partnerships. Relations between our university and the City Council enable us to access research and enterprise income and contribute academic approaches to real-world issues. A local city has no university and our experience of China builds multi-lateral links to benefit that city. Through a student recruitment agent in Sri Lanka we have developed a volunteering project that meets our desire to offer innovative projects to our students. Participating in Erasmus partnerships enables us to develop tri-partite developments within the EU as well as internationally.

We have improved our processes within IO and institutionally to enhance the experience for all stakeholders and to make efficiencies in time. Feedback from our students shows financial constraints as one of the two key barriers to participation in outward mobility. Improvements in funding from the Erasmus programme would help address this. We are investigating providing small bursaries to outgoing exchange students to supplement their Erasmus grants and to provide some funding for students on programmes with no funding.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)