

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

### ***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

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]

Queen's University Belfast aims to become a world-class university that links Northern Ireland to the global community through the life-changing experience it offers to its students, the distinctive contribution made to society by its graduates and the high quality and impact of its research.

The University's commitment to internationalisation is embedded in its corporate plan and strategic priorities, in particular, to:

- a) Offer an exceptional student experience and high quality education, leading to improved progression, attainment and excellent career opportunities for its graduates;
- b) Enhance internationally recognised, globally competitive and sustainable research areas;
- c) Develop global citizens and address international challenges.

Internationalisation is key to achieving our goals which we believe will enrich society and enhance the reputation of the University and Northern Ireland worldwide.

The Internationalisation Strategy which supports the Corporate Plan focuses on four themes:

- 1) Education: International Student Recruitment and Mobility;
- 2) Research: High Quality, High Impact Research Collaboration and Staff Mobility;
- 3) Strategic Partnerships: Reputation Building In-country and Developing the Global Brand; and
- 4) Alumni Engagement: Supporting the Key Goals of Internationalisation.

Mobility, partnership and co-operation underpin these themes. The University is committed to student and staff mobility which provides an interchange of information on education systems, policies and curricula and promotes understanding of different cultures and political systems within the European Union and partner countries.

As part of our Corporate Plan, we wish to increase inward and outward student mobility and we see our participation in Erasmus as a way to enhance the quality of the education we provide and the research we undertake through partnership with institutions in other European countries.

Opportunities to participate in Erasmus are available in every School of the University. Students are made aware of these opportunities through the University web and social media sites, various publications and events, both during and prior to their studies at Queen's. Information seminars are also organised. Each participating School has an academic Erasmus Programme Director to co-ordinate and promote Erasmus activity. Institutional Targets for inward and outward student mobility are developed within Academic School plans and these plans inform the support that will be provided at institutional level.

The University is particularly keen to see increases in degree programmes where there is little mobility currently or from groups who are underrepresented such as students with disabilities or widening participation backgrounds. Based on the principle of equality of opportunity in its Charter since 1908, the policy of the University is to ensure that no person is disadvantaged by reason of religious belief, political opinion, sex, marital status, race, colour, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or disability. The University is also bound by equality legislation in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1989.

The need to improve staff engagement and participation in the internationalisation agenda is an objective which underpins all aspects of the Internationalisation Strategy and the promotion and development of mechanisms to facilitate international networking is viewed as a critical aspect of a successful and sustainable Internationalisation Strategy.

The University recognises that competing across all disciplines and all countries will not deliver success. Through its Internationalisation Strategy, the University seeks to adopt a strategic, proactive and evidence based approach to establishing high quality strategic partnerships with reputable institutions within the following target areas: Europe, China, India, Malaysia and the Americas. Within these countries, we target partners who:

- align with our research strengths and can add value to our priorities of enhancing further the University's research reputation, citations and the impact of research mobility;

- add value to our priorities of increasing inward and outward mobility. In particular, there must be good support mechanisms to enable staff and student mobility;
- will lead to sustainable and balanced outcomes for all partners and which will lead to further developments of the University's international involvement.

With regard to joint degrees, the University is currently a member in one approved Erasmus Mundus Joint Degree project and has been involved in several other applications. The approval of Joint Degrees is coordinated by the University's Collaborative Provision Group, which oversees the quality assurance of all collaborative programmes and ensures that regulations are matched. Whilst the University's number of Joint Degrees is currently small, it is hoped that this is an area for development.

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]

To date, the University's primary focus in relation to the Lifelong Learning and predecessor programmes has been on Erasmus student and staff mobility. It has, however, successfully coordinated two Intensive Programmes and a Grundtvig Project, and been a partner in Erasmus Mundus, Curriculum Development, Thematic Network and Intensive Programmes. Queen's has partnered with RSM Tenon in the Eurograduate programme, funded under Leonardo and offering 26-week internships for graduates. Queen's has also been involved in 54 multi-partner FP7 projects, and coordinated 9 of these projects. It has received the European Commission HR Excellence in Research Award and is currently completing the process for a EURAXESS badge.

Queen's aims to be involved in further transnational projects involving European universities, public organisations and companies, through:

- 1) use of its existing mobility partnerships to identify opportunities for increased collaboration in other activities under the new Programme;
- 2) Membership of the Utrecht Network, a representative European-wide network of 31 European universities in 29 countries, cooperating in the area of internationalisation. The Utrecht Network is particularly committed to such areas as student and staff mobility, summer schools, the internationalisation of curricula, joint curricula and double/joint degrees. From its early years, the Utrecht Network has promoted staff visits with the intention of increasing the professional expertise of the group as a whole. In addition to mobility within Europe, the Network provides opportunities for student exchanges with consortiums in Australia and the USA;
- 3) becoming a member of the new Knowledge Alliances.

Projects will be aligned with institutional priorities, for example enterprise and employability and the University's European Research Funding Action Plan.

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]

The priorities of the Modernisation Agenda and the University's Corporate Plan align well, that is to:

- offer an exceptional student experience and high quality education, leading to improved progression, attainment and excellent career opportunities for our graduates (Modernisation Agenda Priorities 1,2,3,4)
- enhance internationally recognised, globally competitive and sustainable research areas (Modernisation Agenda Priorities 2,3,4)
- grow an efficient, effective and sustainable enterprise (Modernisation Agenda Priority 5)
- develop global citizens and address international challenges (Modernisation Agenda Priorities 1,2,3,4).

A key aspiration of the University is to move towards a Global 100 University and a high value is placed on embedding an international dimension in our education and research portfolio. Within the University, Erasmus is viewed as a valuable programme for the personal and professional development of both students and staff through international mobility, and for increasing international research collaboration and networking opportunities. Each University School has an Internationalisation Director and an Erasmus Programme Director.

Involvement in the programme will help to:

- increase student mobility and in doing so raise the aspirations of the student body contributing to improved attainment and progression of our students;
- contribute to the development of a more diverse student body by supporting the growth in our international student population to 10% of the total student population;
- increase the number of students who learn a foreign language and enable more students to experience 'internationalisation at home' as more teaching staff and students come from abroad;
- support the ongoing development of a dynamic portfolio of education programmes, reflecting the changing aspirations of students and the future needs of employers. Employability and entrepreneurship is now embedded in all degree programmes. However, we would wish to see greater partnership with businesses embedded within programme development and delivery;
- enhance international networking to support the pursuit of high quality, high impact research with international collaborators;
- increase the number of innovation partnerships that align more closely the research strengths of the University with the business needs of international stakeholders and contribute significantly towards raising EU performance at a regional level;
- diversify the income base to reduce our dependence on the core Government grant;
- create more efficient and effective provision of services, building on current successes, through availing of opportunities to support the professional development of staff and the sharing of experiences and practices.

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

**E**

**Endorsement of the application**

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

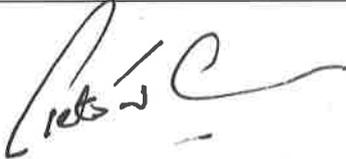
*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

*Place: Belfast*

*Name: Prof Sir Peter Gregson Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 13/05/2013*

*I have read and accept the Privacy statement*

Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)



Original stamp or seal of the Institution

