



## Erasmus Policy Statement

### International Strategy

Internationalisation is at the heart of Glasgow's strategic plan, which identifies that we will extend our global reach "to become a more international university: developing a multicultural community of students and staff; providing an education experience that prepares students for global political and social environments; developing international alliances and partnerships to build capability and capacity in research, education and enterprise; introducing postgraduate degree programmes that have demand in the international market; and raising the profile and reputation of the University of Glasgow globally".

The commitment to 'internationalisation' embedded in the University's strategic plan is further expressed in the Internationalisation Strategy, which has been developed to:

- Engender shared understanding for our institutional priorities in the international arena;
- Guide Colleges/Schools and Services in making resource and development choices;
- Ensure that we embed an international dimension in all our policies, strategies and processes;
- Enhance our international competitiveness.

The Strategy identifies six key themes for international development: student experience; partnerships; alumni; research and knowledge transfer; staff; and local engagement.

Strategically, internationalisation activity is organised according to seven priority regions – Europe; the Americas (North and South); Africa; East Asia; Southeast Asia; South Asia and Eurasia; and the Middle East. A senior member of academic staff or 'Academic Dean' is appointed to have strategic responsibility for each region, and is responsible for developing a Regional Plan for enhancing activity in the region, which is updated annually.

Our approach to partnerships is underpinned by a commitment to align the University with partners and other external stakeholders with whom we share common aims and interests and enjoy parity of esteem, and with partners which support the philanthropic aims of the University Strategy. The University is in the process of developing a number of strategic partnerships with selected overseas partners. We are also active members of a number of international networks of universities, including the 'Universitas 21' and 'International Research Universities Network'.

There are four 'tiers' at which partnerships are developed. A small number of institutional strategic partners in priority international markets (Tier 1); College level partnerships (Tier 2); Partners who engage in more than one School or subject area (Tier 3); Individual collaborative projects encompassing both research and teaching activity which enhance the University's international reputation (Tier 4). We seek to build all partnerships on the basis of sustainability, mutuality and reciprocity.

One of the key themes of our Internationalisation Strategy is devoted to enhancing the student experience by offering a culturally diverse learning environment that prepares students for global employment and citizenship. Our drive to increase levels of outbound student mobility is targeted at three groups in particular:

1. Students wishing to study overseas as part of their degree – Increasing the number of Erasmus exchanges is central to our approach.
2. Students wishing to undertake international work and internship opportunities – The continued growth of Erasmus work placements are central to our approach.
3. Students wishing to undertake a volunteering experience – both overseas and on multicultural projects in Glasgow.

The University has the objective to increase the range and level of staff mobility as a strategic internationalisation priority. Glasgow proactively promotes staff mobility through a high profile 'Staff Mobility Scheme', aimed at supporting staff at a personal and professional level – by providing the opportunity to share expertise and learn about new cultures – while at the same time supporting the University's strategic objective to enhance its global reach and reputation as outlined in Glasgow 2020: A Global Vision. The University also actively promotes both the Erasmus Staff Training Mobility Scheme, and the Erasmus Staff Teaching Mobility Scheme. It does this through its staff mobility web pages, where a range of supporting material is provided, and through a dedicated Erasmus Coordinator.

Glasgow offers a Double Masters degree (International Masters in East European Studies) as part of an Erasmus Mundus Consortium. The University is keen to increase the number of Erasmus Mundus Masters Programmes offered. Glasgow also offers Double PhD's with a range of universities across Europe (including Geneva, Lausanne, Mainz and Bologna). We also offer Joint Teaching (eg with Singapore Institute of Technology) and Joint Degrees – Taught, leading to a single award from all participating institutions (joint award – eg. with the University of Electronics Science and Technology China).

### **International (EU and non-EU cooperation) projects in teaching and training**

Glasgow offers a Double Masters degree (International Masters in East European Studies) as part of an Erasmus Mundus Consortium. The University is keen to extend its success in this area and increase the number of Erasmus Mundus Masters Programmes offered at Glasgow.

The Strategy to Increase International Experiences (SCIES) is explicitly about making connections between academic progress, developing practical experience and skills with business and the outside world as part of the degree experience, and gaining international and multicultural experiences. One way to create these opportunities (and develop opportunities for our students) is to develop Strategic Partnerships and Knowledge Alliances as envisaged by the Commission. So the SCIES strategy forms the platform for developing this strategy under Erasmus for All.

In addition to the above, Glasgow is involved in a range of capacity strengthening activities such as continuing professional development (CPD) for academic and research staff, the development of research skills and competencies, research projects, PhD/Master and Bachelors education, and institutional/administrative. These projects lead to mutually rewarding partnerships and provide access to international networks and expertise, expand

education and research activities in partner institutions, enhance global and development perspectives and provide institutional personal and career development opportunities. Examples include – Sultan Qaboos University (Oman) on enhancing teaching and scholarship skills, and collaboration with the University of Dodoma (Tanzania) in areas such as Health/social sciences; nursing science; renewable energy; physics and service delivery (estates and buildings).

Participation in the U21 network has been the main strategic forum through which we have taken forward cooperation projects for innovation and good practice. Examples include a recent research project led by Glasgow through U21.

### **Expected Impact of Erasmus+ Programme on modernisation of institution**

PRIORITY 1: A key policy objective for Glasgow is to enhance the student experience by offering a culturally diverse learning environment that prepares students for global employment and citizenship. The SCIES strategy seeks to increase the number of international and work related learning opportunities, to enhance students' future prospects. The University recognises that international and mobility experiences support attainment and provide graduates with the attributes necessary to operate in multi-cultural European and global environments. Participation in the Programme will offer a range of unique opportunities for Glasgow to develop the diversity of its learning environments so that students and researchers can develop the skills required for today's globalised environment, including extended exchange opportunities, the development of consortia and collaborative courses. In expanding the diversity of student experience, these opportunities also support the modernisation priority to strengthen quality through mobility.

PRIORITIES 2 AND 3: Glasgow's strategic objective to support effective engagement of staff with the goals for internationalisation works directly to support both the quality and relevance of higher education by encouraging staff to explore new and innovative ways to teach and promote learning, and to undertake visits to learn about the design of courses in their particular areas of expertise, and how these are matched to professional and skills requirements in different countries. The Programme will offer Glasgow opportunities to further these goals, in particular through the staff training and teaching mobility opportunities. The University's objective to increase partnership working on a sustainable and mutually beneficial basis feeds directly into a number of the EU modernisation priorities. Quality and relevance are enhanced by the joint identification of demand for courses across borders and associated joint development of courses. Partnership working for course development also offers the opportunity for innovative curriculum development, as partners negotiate new aspects to each other's' course content. The programme will offer opportunities to develop joint courses and consortia, not least under the auspices of Erasmus Mundus, which the University has identified as an area for future expansion.

PRIORITY 4: The University aims to work with the city and region to support social, cultural and economic development through the international profile and reach of the University.

PRIORITY 5: Glasgow intends to strategically increase the funding that comes from EU sources.