



The following Erasmus Policy Statement outlines Edinburgh Napier University's institutional strategy in relation to the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. The Charter was awarded in December 2013 and permits the University to participate in the Erasmus+ programme from 2014 to 2020.

Erasmus Policy Statement

Internationalisation is a key strategic priority for Edinburgh Napier University. Our approach to internationalisation is not simply focussed on recruiting international students, but is also based on a partnership approach with overseas institutions.

Our aim is to provide an internationalised experience for all students through the curriculum, through pedagogic approaches and technology, through student diversity and through the provision of opportunities for placement and exchange, thus enhancing the employability of our graduates. The emphasis on our international reputation, our partnerships and graduate employability continues to be reflected in our 2009-2015 Strategic Plan, through our objectives, 'To be an international university', 'To be a preferred partner' and 'To develop confident, employable graduates'.

Mobility underpins each of these objectives and as such, the University continues to expand its network of strategic partners to both facilitate the exchange of students and staff and to capitalise on the potential for joint teaching and research activity.

Partner Selection and Geographical Scope

Dialogue with potential partners (both EU and non-EU) initially focuses on mobility for undergraduate students and institutions are selected taking into account their curriculum compatibility, shared learning outcomes, their language of instruction, the established support network in place for incoming students and demand within our local student population.

Current mobility activity in Europe is mainly focussed on Germany, France and Spain, reflecting our Language offerings and the mobility that is embedded in these programmes. Interest for non-Language students centres on the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries. We hope to build on the strategic partnerships that have been fostered through Erasmus and have a vision to promote Masters level mobility through double awards e.g. joint supervision of dissertation/theses. Our internationalisation objectives are also pursued through co-operative research projects and direction of research students on jointly supervised, co-operative, doctoral awards, e.g. the DBA.

Out with Europe, current exchange partners are located in the US, Canada, Australia and China and new links are being explored in various locations across Latin America. The University has recently been successful in attracting funding from the Scottish Government's Saltire Scholarships for Outward Mobility fund for the provision of a 4 week Community Health placement in Canada for Nursing students in collaboration with Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver, Canada, enabling students from this traditionally 'hard to send' area to engage with overseas study opportunities.

Both EU and non-EU partners are selected not only on the basis of shared interests, but with the same common aim of long-term sustainability and collaborative activity across cycles.

Target Groups of Mobility Activities

Student credit mobility is primarily focussed on undergraduate students. There are several first cycle programmes which have a compulsory mobility or work placement component and students that study and work overseas receive academic credit which contributes to their degree classification and is reflected in their Diploma Supplement.

The University is committed to increasing these outward numbers by expanding the subjects covered and the range of mobility packages on offer. We will work to engage with all student groups including those where participation rates have traditionally been low.

In order to help us achieve this objective we will work towards extending current short-term mobility packages. We are aware that short-term mobility has a broader appeal and is of interest to a larger audience than the conventional mobility options and current examples which have co-operative potential across both EU and overseas partners include participation in Entrepreneurial Exchange Weeks in Germany and a study internship in Zhengzhou University in China for Computing students.

We hope to expand our portfolio of European work placement opportunities through dialogue with partners and will promote these opportunities across the three Faculties.

Edinburgh Napier continues to internationalise through double degree activity at Bachelor and Masters level. The highly successful Bachelor double degree initiatives are being extended among institutions, e.g. German Hochschulen, where Master level mobility increases in focus amongst student cohorts.

Best practice is not restricted to student mobility with teaching and administrative staff utilising the Erasmus framework to enhance knowledge and understanding of diverse, contemporary and innovative mobility practices, teaching perspectives and research opportunities with both industry and academia.

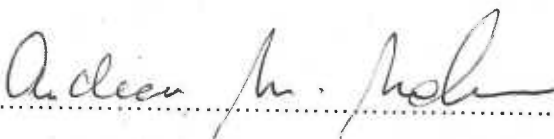
We are confident that initiatives such as our double degree programmes both promote strong student mobility and extend the possibilities for both teaching and administrative staff exchange possibilities within co-operating institutions where the EU viewpoint to which students and staff are exposed, promotes diversity in perspectives, thinking, questioning and outlook.

It is therefore hoped that the Institutional internationalisation agenda will continue to be enhanced through a broader and deeper knowledge base of process and practice developed through staff mobility.

Objectives

Mobility is key to enhancing the student experience and internationalising our local student population. It introduces students to creative, innovative and entrepreneurial practices across a broad range of subjects and topics and exposes staff to diverse perspectives, creativity, innovation and sharing of best practice. It informs our teaching and research activity and contributes to our strong graduate employability rates.

As such, it is the University's intention that continued participation in mobility activity and the extended networks of direct and indirect mobility contacts will provide the potential for the Institution to not only fulfil its strategic objectives, but will promote the further development of *mutual, and multiple, institutional partnerships for the benefit of all.*

Signed: 

Date: 20/01/14

Place: Edinburgh

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