

Erasmus Policy Statement

Our Strategic Vision 'Brunel University London 2030' identifies Global Impact as one of the University's five distinctive areas of focus. We will expand our already significant global reach, further raising our reputation as one of the world's pre-eminent international universities.

We will build strategic partnerships with overseas universities and businesses to expand our research and education and deliver impact through knowledge transfer. We will also develop innovative ways of delivering education across the globe and strengthen the academic base in the developing world.

Our International Strategy 2015 - 2020 underpins the expansion of our international partnerships as one of the strategic objectives. Brunel University London has integrated the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020 into its strategic framework.

The University benefits hugely from the diversity of its students and staff, with students from 110 different countries, representing all continents of the world. We wish to build on this achievement, and improve the quality of our education and research by consolidating current partnership activities, as well as being open to new and exciting opportunities in areas of the world where we currently do not have a presence. We recognise that the greatest value comes from partnerships that cut across both education and research, and are looking to be more strategic in our collaborative activities to make sure that we have the capacity to engage with our partners in a meaningful way.

Our European neighbours have always been important to our activities, and will continue to be so. The increased focus on partnerships and collaborative activities in the UK domestic agenda and the fact that most business is conducted on a global scale, means that the activities of a university, in preparing students for their future careers, must reflect this reality. Job opportunities are increasingly international, with global searches often undertaken to identify the best candidate.

The most important objectives of engaging with mobility programmes are to:

- provide opportunities for an international experience to both our students and staff: by facilitating visits and exchanges abroad, we can support students and staff who want to broaden their horizons; by welcoming students to Brunel, we provide an international dimension to the learning environment of all students, not just those that engage with the mobility agenda themselves
- contribute to education on the global stage by engaging in education, training and research activities that build capacity and develop the leaders of tomorrow
- prepare students for the realities of the modern world, producing graduates that are socially aware and able to contribute to the global challenges where solutions may have impacts beyond one's own country.

A guiding principle in deciding who to partner with is common research interests, which provide the foundation for a range of partnership activities. It is important that both institutions have a clear view of the purpose and outcomes of the collaboration. The strategic fit will relate to both research and education, and we know from experience that the most sustainable, successful and balanced partnerships are those with multiple outcomes such as cooperation on research programmes, involving PhD students, and teaching activities that broaden the undergraduate and master level student experience.

During the next period of the mobility programme, we will seek to increase participation by students from under-represented groups. We recognise that a strong commitment to equal opportunities may not be sufficient to make this happen, and that incentives, such as additional financial support, may be needed. We will also seek to improve the balance of incoming and outgoing mobilities, particularly to European institutions. This will be facilitated by improved coherence of activities and visibility of the Erasmus+ coordinator, including activities that take place pre and post mobility.

Expected impact of Brunel University's participation in the Programme

- recognise prior learning and experience, thereby facilitating participation in HE by individuals from a range of backgrounds
- have a strong widening participation agenda, and 30% of our students come from under-represented groups
- provide financial assistance through scholarships
- our institutional regulations recognise successfully completed study mobility and traineeships in the final award

Participating in the programme will ensure we can continue to support the aspirations of students at all levels, improving their prospects for employment and providing life-long skills, including languages. Our strategy aims to integrate our activities and provide opportunities for those least likely to engage.