



# Erasmus Policy Statement

The Overarching Aim of the University of Plymouth's [Internationalisation Strategy](#) is to be global in our networks, opportunities and outlook and we have set ourselves four Goals to achieve this aim. We will:

1. continue to develop programmes and study opportunities to deliver a student experience which provides our students with the international outlook, knowledge and skills to work in the global economy and to play their part as world citizens.

We will do this by:

- ensuring that international themes such as sustainability and global citizenship are included in our curriculum;
  - ensuring our student experience is inclusive and meets the needs of students from all parts of the world;
  - including in our employability initiatives, student employability around the world;
  - developing the Plymouth Global Citizen Charter to capture the international values and skills our students will need in the 21st century;
  - developing support and advice services to support the varied needs of our global student body and enhance their experience;
  - sustaining a range of high profile, university, city and regional, social and cultural activities reflecting the diverse staff and student groups at the University;
  - encouraging students to engage in international volunteering opportunities.
2. increasing and sustaining a network of academic partnerships for the delivery of University of Plymouth programmes across the world;

We will do this by:

- ensuring our global partnerships are focussed primarily on quality, financial sustainability and reputational robustness;
  - focussing partnership development on North America, the Far East and the Middle East;
  - seeking partners who share our values and in particular our mission to transform lives;
  - seeking partnerships which grow our global reputation and visibility as a world-class university;
  - developing and extending activities with our existing partners;
  - using technology to deliver modules and programmes around the world especially in transnational education;
  - ensuring our overseas programmes keep our high academic standards and share our values for the student experience;
  - involving our Students' Union and the student body at home and overseas in our
  - partnerships;
  - developing and identifying strategic partnerships to form a Plymouth Global Network;
  - celebrating our global partnership network;
  - supporting and promoting links to global corporations to enable graduate employment opportunities and the growth of our enterprise agenda.
3. increasing the diversity of our student body by seeking to attract international students from a wider range of countries;

We will do this by:

- applying best practice in the recruitment of international students;
- developing and sustaining a range of overseas agents and offices supporting our international recruitment activity;
- developing programmes which meet the needs and aspirations of international students;
- sustaining services and partnerships with organisations supporting international students, as students and as part of the Plymouth community;
- offering active scholarships and bursaries to international students of high merit;
- providing English preparation and support which enables our students to study in higher education in a second language;
- developing networks and events to promote the University, the City and the South West region;
- working closely with our UK partners for international student progression and entry to our programmes;



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- staying engaged with our overseas alumni;
  - use technology to enable international remote networking and to deliver accessible programmes around the world in creative and innovative ways.
4. opening our university to the possibilities and opportunities afforded through a global exchange of ideas, values and experiences for both our students and our staff.

We will do this by:

- widening our student and staff mobility opportunities in all cycles across the world;
- supporting mobility schemes such as [UUKi Stand Out](#), [Erasmus](#) and [ISEP](#)
- developing short course/summer school opportunities, credit-bearing where appropriate, for our students to study overseas and for overseas students to study in Plymouth;
- support students and staff studying or working overseas to ensure they are well prepared and safe;
- providing training and development opportunities to enable our staff to deliver an inclusive student experience for all our students wherever they go and wherever they are from;
- developing programmes delivered across the [Plymouth Global](#) Network where students would spend several periods of study overseas as an integral part of the programme;
- delivering robust recruitment and retention of international staff to ensure we learn from and encourage adoption of their unique international perspectives into our activities;
- reflecting international influences through the physicality of our campus environments to reflect our increasingly global community within the context of our Plymouth location.

Concomitant with our Internationalisation Strategy, the University's [Strategy for Academic Partnerships](#) includes a commitment to apply appropriate criteria to identify and grow new academic partnerships that deliver value to the partnership in Transnational Education and academic mobilities. Plymouth Global, within [Academic Partnerships](#), takes the lead responsibility for implementing this commitment and for the development and management of our bilateral, Erasmus and ISEP academic mobility partnerships.

Mobility and cooperation is therefore, one of the central elements of our institutional policy and, to this end Plymouth Global:

- develops cooperation with partners in other Programme/Partner Countries;
- promotes and supports non-discriminatory student and staff mobility, including from under-represented groups;
- recognises and makes visible the achievements our staff engaged in mobility and in cooperation projects;
- uses best mobility practises in mobility and cooperation activities to further improve the University's international performance.

In particular, with regard to the University's participation in Erasmus, Plymouth Global discharges the following responsibilities:

- adherence to the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education;
- designation of the University's Erasmus Institutional Coordinator;
- acting as the Institutional Contact for the National Agency;
- accounting to the National Agency on the conduct of our participation in Erasmus.



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[The University of Plymouth's Strategy](#) reflects the priorities of the [EU's Agenda for Higher Education](#)<sup>1</sup>. We aspire to be "the enterprise university" in the UK, working in partnership with business, public and voluntary sectors, to play a distinctive role in the development, application and exchange of knowledge in the city and beyond. As the enterprise university we aim to closely connect our teaching and research with the practicalities of the real world - supporting innovation and enhancing competitiveness in local, regional and global businesses, and bringing research outputs to an international audience. Our [business workspace and facilities](#) offer modern working spaces in our [Formation Zones](#), [Innovation Centres](#) and at [Plymouth Science Park](#) and [Brixham Laboratory](#) helping many hundreds of local businesses and spinout companies. Plymouth has become the first university in the world to be awarded the [Social Enterprise Mark](#), recognising that our business model is directed by the needs of society and the environment.

The University delivers higher education through its network of 8 international (including three European) partners and 23 UK partner colleges and is a founding partner of the [Combined Universities in Cornwall](#). We aim to make higher education available to students from a great variety of geographical and social background. We endeavour to increasingly apply our experience in working with regional partner institutions to our international activities, aiming to develop high quality and sustainable international partnerships.

Through our modernisation and internationalisation agenda we aim to be a powerful agent in fostering cultural diversity and tolerance enhancing the culture and the economy of the South West region which is less multicultural than many parts of the UK.

We see our participation in the Erasmus programme crucial to our modernisation agenda and our ambition to become the enterprise university as it will help us to:

- increase the international dimension in our teaching and research
- develop distinctive curricula with an international dimension to provide Plymouth students with an international outlook and the skills required for working in the global economy.
- develop highly qualified graduates who are ready to take their place as active, co-operative and responsible citizens in society both locally and globally.
- increase activity with business clients, government and regional agencies to develop new international market opportunities for research, innovation, enterprise and knowledge transfer.
- work with other HE providers (local, national and international) to increase the diversity of progression opportunities for international students to study at Plymouth.

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<sup>1</sup> 1. Tackling future skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development;  
2. Building inclusive and connected higher education systems;  
3. Ensuring higher education institutions contribute to innovation;  
4. Supporting effective and efficient higher education systems.