University of Plymouth
International Strategy
2021–2025
Our University 2030 Strategy envisages the University of Plymouth as ‘a broad based international university of the region.’ We define this through the experience and diversity of our student and staff community; through curricula that equip our students as global citizens; through the global significance and reach of our research endeavour and because of our contribution to national and international discussions shaping policy and practice areas, most notably in addressing questions of social, economic and environmental sustainability. As such this strategy is relevant to all of our students, staff and partners, wherever and however they study, work and collaborate with us.

Professor Dayfeld Moore
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(International)
International Strategy

Our strategy is encapsulated in 5 complementary and mutually reinforcing ambitions:

1. We have a thriving international student body, which means that we benefit from a growing number of international students, working in a diverse range of learning modes and settings in Plymouth and across the world.

2. We undertake research and knowledge exchange characterised by networks, partnerships and collaborations that span the globe, which means that our researchers and their research are internationally connected and meaningfully engaged in solving pressing global challenges.

3. We offer an education characterised by a globalised student experience, which means that our students experience an education that broadens their knowledge, abilities and awareness as global citizens to the benefit of both their intellectual and personal growth.

4. We are a global Plymouth community which means that we are welcoming and inclusive and our members (staff and students and alumni) flourish & take pride in their University however and wherever they have engaged with it.

5. We engage in international activity that promotes sustainable practice because how we engage with the world recognises our responsibilities and leadership in terms of sustainable development.

The aims and objectives laid out in this document will allow the University to say that it is meeting these ambitions.
Our aim is to deliver outstanding education that makes a difference, improving local, national and global communities.

**Ambition 1. A thriving international student body:** We benefit from a growing number of international students, working in a diverse range of learning modes and settings in Plymouth and across the world.

**1.1 A vibrant and substantial international student population studying in Plymouth.**
- A globally relevant and competitive portfolio that grows the University’s international market share.
- Identification of key markets for growth & investment in marketing footprint (incl o/s offices).
- An institutional Summer School offer that includes a specific conversion remit.
- Maximise benefit from partnership with Navitas and UPIC.

**1.2 A distinctive TNE identity for Plymouth.**
- Sustainable growth of existing key TNE partnerships in line with overall targets.
- Establishment of 2-3 new strategically aligned partnerships in key areas/markets.
- Establish “TNE+”: a ‘beyond flying faculty’ model of concurrent and/or collaborative pedagogy between different countries (at Plymouth with TNE).
- Ensure our partnerships promote collective action to address social and environmental sustainability challenges.

**1.3 A significant online/blended Plymouth Provision**
- Establish internationally relevant and competitive online PGT portfolio.
- Grow unbundled CPD online offering to meet relevant global demand.
- Explore ‘low residency’/blended offer for appropriate Plymouth-based programmes.
- Ensure provision of student support and advice to cater to students studying wholly online (and possibly remotely).

**Ambition 2. Research and Knowledge Exchange that is characterised by networks, partnerships and collaborations that span the globe; our researchers and their research is internationally connected and meaningfully engaged in solving pressing global challenges.**

**2.1 High quality, strategically aligned and mutually beneficial portfolio of international research partnerships.**
- Develop and deepen high quality partnerships and networks aligned to our Strategic Institutes (Marine & Maritime, Environmental Sustainability and Health).
- Create bi-lateral partnerships between individual research centres and promote multilateral research networks in particular areas of excellence.
- Increase the percentage of our research outputs with international collaborators and further enhance success rates with UK and international funding schemes (post Brexit).
- Establish UoP as a ‘partner of choice’ by complementary overseas institutions.
- Drive up UoP position on international league tables including QS and THE.

**2.2 Research and innovation that maximises its impact in addressing global challenges as articulated through the UN Sustainable Development Goals.**
- UoP known for championing challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research relevant to global sustainable development goals.
- Develop our capacity (including through pump-priming) to access international research funding streams.

**2.3 A research community that attracts the best global researchers and nurtures relationships with bodies or individuals that support doctoral studentships.**
- Support partnerships that provide postgraduate research students with opportunities to study with UoP + an overseas institution.
- Support Visiting Fellowship programmes with overseas partners to provide early career/post-doctoral researchers opportunities to carry out identified research projects.
- Promote sabbatical opportunities for international researchers to work with colleagues at UoP.

**2.4 Well-developed international research and knowledge exchange collaborations with industry, governments and charities overseas.**
- Increase international policy influence through the Strategic Institutes.
- Development of a strategic institutional approach to International Relationship management.
- Increase in overseas commercial research through international business development in key areas.
- Secure international investment in commercialisation of University IP through developing partnerships with investment communities.

**Ambition 3. Education characterised by globalised student experience:** Our students experience an education that broadens their knowledge, abilities and awareness as global citizens to the benefit of both their intellectual and personal growth.

**3.1 Learning for all students is global in its outlook.**
- Deliver curricula that allow students to benefit from an understanding of the international context of their discipline.
- Grow number of learning and teaching exchanges and long term visits.
- Make UN SDG central to the Plymouth experience for all students.

**3.2 Increased opportunities for and improved experience of international exchange, study and work abroad.**
- Review and update Study Abroad opportunities including outbound Summer Schools.
- Integration and advocating of Student mobility as a valued and enabled component of programme experience.
- Remove barriers to student mobility.

**Ambition 4. Global Plymouth Community:** The Plymouth community is a welcoming and inclusive one whose members (staff, students and alumni) flourish & succeed and take pride in their University however and wherever they have engaged with it.

**4.1 An inclusive and welcoming international student experience.**
- Create clearer, more joined up, and explicit support offer for international students across multiple teams.
- Consolidate and amplify an international feel of campus and to underline the value our international students bring to Plymouth.
- Create an international digital experience that reflects a globally connected and digitised world.
### Aim

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<th>4.2 A Diverse international staff community.</th>
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<td>- Increase the international diversity of our staff population.</td>
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<td>- Support international staff community to feel at home in Plymouth.</td>
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<th>4.3 A large and engaged international alumni network.</th>
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<td>- Improve approach for alumni both on and offshore.</td>
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<td>- Improve involvement of alumni with University.</td>
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<td>- Advocacy initiative focussing on graduates (both onshore and offshore).</td>
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<th>4.4 Global visibility in eyes of past, current and future students, staff and other stakeholders.</th>
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<td>- Build recognition of Plymouth in key global markets.</td>
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<td>- Attract inward investment to Plymouth/region through leadership in skills-based research and innovation.</td>
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### Objectives

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<th>5.1 Our engagement with the world demonstrably recognises our responsibilities and leadership in terms of sustainable development.</th>
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<td>- Our international recruitment activity recognises and sponsors the UN Sustainable Goals.</td>
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<td>- Our research is specifically connected to Marine and Maritime conservation, Health, Wellbeing and Sustainability in a rich and interdisciplinary fashion.</td>
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<td>- We respect the knowledge and skills that other countries and other cultures contribute to our partnerships.</td>
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<td>- Our programmes embrace education for sustainable development.</td>
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**Ambition 5. Our International activity focusses on and promotes sustainable practice: how we engage with the world addresses the challenges of social and economic sustainability.**