

Erasmus Policy Statement

The University of Kent's Internationalisation Strategy has the stated mission to build on our close ties within Europe and to continue to develop wider international partnerships. The University of Kent welcomes internationalisation in its core areas of Learning and Teaching, Research and Enterprise and the wider Student Experience.

The presence of students and staff from Europe and from overseas enriches the experience of all who work and study at the University. International links allow our students and staff to broaden their experience and enhance their skills through contact with many different countries, cultures and experiences. The University recognises moreover that we have an important part to play in promoting Higher Education internationally, and must seek opportunities to share expertise in Research, Enterprise and Teaching, to the benefit of our students, staff, internal and external stakeholders, and institutional partners.

We aim for a holistic and inclusive approach to internationalisation to equip our students and staff to thrive as 'global citizens' in an increasing globalised environment, through processes allied to learning and skills development and by paying attention to the experience of international and European students and to the international appeal of our portfolio of programmes.

Our internationalisation strategy positions us both in the global market and in relation to UK students who seek to add an international dimension to their education. It builds on our innovative engagement with Europe through the University of Kent in Brussels and postgraduate centres in Paris, Athens and Rome.

International partners are chosen on the basis of the range and quality of activities that can be developed. These include student /staff exchanges, visiting faculty, dual awards, joint research, enterprise activities, and progression arrangements, amongst others. In order to ensure that new international partnerships and collaborations are appropriately strategic, high quality, and enhance the reputation of the University, all Kent faculty and staff must adhere to a series of internal approval processes and guidelines.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor External has overall responsibility for approving new international partnerships and for signing memoranda of understanding, agreements and other partnership documents. She must be satisfied that the nature of a proposed collaboration advances Kent's international strategic aims and that the suggested partner, in terms of its academic profile and reputation, is a suitable 'fit' for the University.

Strategic partnerships have focused on geographical areas of Europe, Asia, and the Americas. This is based on the wide range, high quality and long standing engagement with these areas in all of the University's core activities - teaching, research and enterprise. The University of Kent's engagement with these areas is inclusive, and supported by staff identified across the university with a good knowledge of, and current engagement with, the country concerned, and enthusiasm to promote the connections more extensively and deeply within the university. Priority areas of attention embrace recruitment, programme and partnership development, and relationship building more generally.

The most important objectives of our mobility activities are the implementation of strategies in collaborative teaching and research, curriculum reform, and student and staff exchange that extend the University's global reach, its international engagement, and its international reputation and enhance the student experience. Central to the achievement of these objectives are: the creation of an over-arching Internationalisation Strategy Board, tasked

with championing the implementation of the Internationalisation Strategy; the implementation of a stranded Internationalisation Strategy Action Plan, which is reviewed annually; the allocation of resources to underpin the Internationalisation Strategy; a commitment at all levels of the University to ensuring that students, staff and other internal and external stakeholders have appropriate awareness of and access to benefits achieved via the University's implementation of its Internationalisation Strategy.

The most important target groups of our mobility activities are staff and students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and have introduced successful initiatives in recent years to increase the number of international mobility opportunities and levels of participation in mobility schemes. Student mobility provides excellent opportunities to enrich the student experience and enhance and develop the global employability skills of our graduates.

We have developed a number of double/multiple degrees with international partners at bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels including those within the framework of Erasmus Mundus.