

University of Bath Erasmus Policy Statement

The University International Strategy recognises that global innovation environments are becoming multipolar. In this changed world, policy initiatives in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), including the Bologna Process and European Doctoral Area are important facets of the way in which European HE is projected. Many national systems outside Europe see this agenda as an exemplar for their own development. European funding is important as a source of student mobility funding.

The world's leading universities define excellence by their international reputation, their international footprint and success in recruiting the best staff and student talent in the world. Internationalisation is therefore by definition comprehensive, and a projection of the University as a whole into a set of contexts beyond the national context.

The University will continue to support existing, high-value partnerships with tangible benefit at faculty level or below (e.g. Tsinghua School of Economics and Management). A closer alignment of the two levels remains desirable for reasons of institutional leverage.

The International Strategy will further deliver and leverage next generation world-class research by supporting new talent in the following ways:

1. Internationalising the experience of established and Early Career Researchers and Prize Fellows by means of mobility (international experience with strategic partners) and intercultural experience (e.g. language support).
2. Adopting a consolidated, strategic approach to postgraduate research students by means of:
 - reciprocal exchange with preferred partners
 - recruiting top talent to postgraduate research programmes
 - strategic partnership with PhD funding agencies (e.g. Colciencias in Colombia, China Scholarship Council, Ciéncia sem Fronteiras, Brazil) and funding councils (e.g. Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fapesp, NSF, Brain Korea 21, Korea Foundation).
 - strategic deployment of PGR international funds to support long-term relationships

International partnerships support excellence by affording collaborative bilateral and multilateral research opportunities and support for pump-priming, major research bids, symposia and colloquia in support of the University's Research Strategy.

The International Strategy supports engagement with the EHEA, the European Research Council, next generation of EU programmes from 2013 and the European Council for Doctoral Education.

Student mobility is an important part of the international strategy and an area in which the University has some success. The University should adopt a proactive approach to engagement with EHEA initiatives driven by the understanding that mobility and employability form an integrated whole.

- a. The University has started developing a global network of highly trusted partners in key innovation regions. These institutional partners satisfy a number of criteria including regional pre-eminence, commitment to supporting mobility of staff and students, institutional will, a willing to match funding and a willingness to partner with partners. University resource will be invested in a targeted manner for the long term. Strategic mapping, due diligence and research sensing are key processes in the assessment of preferred strategic partners.
- b. Key regions are N. and S. America, Africa, EU, E. Asia as phase one. Multilateral leverage potential is key to this enterprise.
- c. The most important objectives are: increased mobility flows not only bilaterally but also multilaterally (across the network as it grows); co-authored research papers; joint bids for large research grants; concerted approached to future partners including commercial partners. Key targets groups are staff in the research but also professional functions and students in the first and third cycles (through our Global Research Scholarship funds). Second cycle students are not excluded and some will be conducting project work at our preferred partners.

At departmental level there are equally valuable student exchange agreements with EU partners and also training agreements in many regions around the world.

Bath is the lead university in the highly regarded Euromasters consortium with a wide range of EU and also non-EU partners. We also have a series of articulation agreements (typically '2+2' agreements) with such partners as ECUST (chemistry), Harbin Institute of Technology (engineering) and NCEPU (also engineering). However, we recognise that to embed a multilateral network the University will need to fully support the portability of credit and credit recognition in our various partners with all due regard for quality assurance. While dual degrees are currently permitted, joint degrees require a change in our statutes. The strategy

presupposes the implementation of multiple degrees as the outcome of a networked approach to university collaboration.

The University recognises the strategic value of strong engagement with the Programme. The University International Strategy explicitly envisages a comprehensive approach to networked cooperation including teaching and training. There is scope and good strategic reason to promote more staff mobility (incoming and outgoing) under the Programme. The University strategy is also committed to developing more networked partnership activity that will connect its non-EU partners (e.g. in S. Africa, China, Korea, Brazil) and its EU partners. In these networks, mobility of staff and students but also engagement with other actors in the innovation system (e.g. business) will be important. The connection between university and business is already strongly demonstrated by our hugely successful professional placement scheme, embedded in our first cycle degrees and leading to the highest graduate employability record in the UK. Doctoral mobility (supported by our Global Research Scholarship programme) and innovative doctoral training will be a key part of this approach. Increased investment (3.5 fte) in our Mobility and Partnerships activities in the International Relations Office will support both the organisation and implementation of this part of the international strategy. Greater engagement in Erasmus Mundus, EU-USA Atlantis and EU-ICI ECP (particularly with South Korea) will articulate well with the above priorities.

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

Mobility enhances retention and performance. We recognise that earlier intervention and partnership prior to secondary education can support widening participation. Our bursary scheme will concretely support such an agenda and remove financial barriers to participation. The university is also committed to attracting more PhD students of superior talent and to building critical mass in institutes (e.g. Institute for Policy Research) and Doctoral Training Centres. Mobility for doctoral students is a key component of the International Strategy, attracting a new investment of £400000 p.a. for inbound and outbound PhD mobility. In this, the University is strongly aligned with Horizon 2020. Mobile researchers are more employable.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of HE

Students may take foreign language modules to enhance their mobility (and thus also) career prospects. The Bath Award is conferred on students who complete at least 300 hours of extra-curricular activities and meet standards in a set of key skills areas: teamwork, leadership, communication, commercial awareness and problem-solving of exchange at Bath is not restricted to academic staff, as evidenced by the staff exchange programme with Alicante University. The concept of ICT supported virtual mobility is a particularly interesting one of worthy of further exploration. The University has a range of Advisory Boards (with industry membership) at faculty/school or research centre level.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

Mobility has for too long been consigned to the margins of internationalisation. The University has placed it publicly at the centre of its agenda. The University also sees mobility and employability as an interrelated whole and is committed to increasing its mobility volumes in both directions and for both staff and students.

4. Making the knowledge triangle work

The University of Bath is the UK leader in graduate employability, with a professional placement scheme that is fully integrated in the curriculum. Moreover, its has enjoyed many spin-out successes and plays a key role regionally in promoting small business innovation (Bath Innovation Centre). Changing funding regimes call for a diversification of funding streams including new forms of partnership. In practical terms, this implies closer, long-term cooperation with commercial and other partners in research but also in support for mobility.

5. Improving governance and funding

(see also 4). Internationalisation is accompanied by a number of challenges to existing governance processes. Resolving these challenges adds significant value to the institution and strengthens governance. Promoting joint awards and building inter-institutional trust will be important, supported by an appropriate HR strategy that promotes engagement, adaptability and leadership.