Cardiff University Erasmus+ Policy Statement

The overall aim of Cardiff University's Internationalisation strategy is to make a positive contribution to the international development of higher education, working with our partners to play a crucial role in tackling some of the biggest global issues of today and of the future, through research collaboration, exchange of curricula knowledge and ideas and exchange of staff and students.

The University's Internationalisation Strategy is informed by and supports the Welsh Government and Cardiff Council's International Policy. Internationalisation is a central fact of the University's institutional development strategy.

Cardiff University recognises the importance of European collaboration as well as collaboration in the wider world beyond Europe. In Europe, the University's Internationalisation Strategy shares the aspirations of the European Council's May 2010 Conclusions on the Internationalisation of Higher Education, which state that "international cooperation in Higher Education contributes to improving the quality and innovation of teaching, learning and research."

The University remains committed to the Erasmus+ programme among other European research and exchange programmes. Cardiff's Internationalisation Strategy aims to position the University as one of the world's leading universities.

Principal aims of the strategy are to:
1. Develop and support a culture that encourages an international environment throughout the University, ensuring that the benefits of internationalisation are understood and promoted throughout the staff and student body.
2. Provide an education and experience that equips students to learn and contribute as global citizens.
3. Develop the breadth and depth of international research collaborations and the impact of our scholarship, innovation and knowledge.
4. Attract the brightest international students who will contribute to the University's mission and become future ambassadors.
5. Enhance the reputation of the University through effective communication and engagement.

Cardiff University has set a challenging target to increase the proportion of graduating students who travel outside the UK for a period of their studies, with the aim of attaining a target of 17% for outward mobility by 2017.

The Global Opportunity Centre has been created in pursuit of this target. The Centre is responsible for identifying new partners for staff and student exchange, as well as for due diligence on existing partners including pastoral care of students and academic quality assurance of partners.

The broadest possible number of opportunities will be developed for students in all disciplines allowing for a period of study, work or volunteering overseas. Geographical priorities are in line with inward and outward student flows and research collaboration.

In pursuit of the target to increase outward mobility 1st cycle is our highest priority with the aim of increasing employability of Cardiff graduates through the knowledge and experiences gained from a period of study overseas. 2nd and 3rd cycle opportunities will also be created as part of the new mobility unit. As part of this project the mobility of staff is also recognised as being of critical importance and supporting this will be a key consideration.

In identifying partners, the University's principal concerns are quality and reputation. Academic compatibility and the quality of student experience and support provision are also taken into consideration. The University has a robust risk assessment process which reports into a Collaborative Provision Sub-Committee (CPSC), made up of academic staff, registry and international office to ensure student and staff exchange agreements are quality assured and risks are effectively managed.

The CPSC reports into the Academic Quality Standards Committee which has overall responsibility for academic standards in the University. The CPSC also has responsibility for the limited number of joint and dual degree agreements the University has in place.