



University of
St Andrews

Erasmus Policy Statement

- 1. Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description, please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)*

The mission of the University of St Andrews is to achieve the highest international standards in the advancement and dissemination of knowledge. In doing so, it aims to strengthen its position as a community for world-leading research; promote the ethos of research inquiry in the student learning experience, encouraging the highest standards of critical thinking, creativity and independence; and contribute economically, socially and culturally to the benefit of the local community, Scotland, the UK and communities internationally.

The University's international reputation for high quality teaching and research has made it an attractive community for students and scholars from around the world, and thus Scotland's most cosmopolitan university, with some 45% of our students coming from outside the UK. The University is committed to the development of strategic alliances which nurture and further embed our 'internationally Scottish' culture, broadening and enriching the St Andrews community and enhancing academic links in Europe and around the world.

The University works closely with institutions across the world to offer student mobility at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and facilitate staff mobility and collaboration. Our strategic partnerships are founded on strong synergies in teaching and research expertise. Collaborative research projects infuse teaching at all levels, and student and staff mobility creates further opportunities for enhancing curriculum linkages and innovations.

The University is committed to embedding mobility in the curriculum from the earliest stages of higher education, so as to develop a culture of mobility and enable students to take full advantage of opportunities later in their academic careers and so as to develop graduates who are highly-skilled, flexible and globally-minded citizens. St Andrews is a research-intensive institution where mobility and international collaboration are crucial to scholarship. In this context, staff mobility is encouraged and underpins and reinforces a culture of mobility amongst students.

Partners are carefully selected with long-term and comprehensive teaching and research collaboration the ultimate goal. At the same time, St Andrews seeks to identify and utilise opportunities to build alliances in new areas of research so as to remain at the forefront of international scholarship.

The University's Study Abroad strategy seeks to increase the number and diversity of St Andrews students participating in Study Abroad programmes. A key objective is to offer our students

opportunities to experience other academic cultures and foster intellectual maturity, while enhancing co-curricular skills and long-term employability. Study Abroad is fully integrated into degree programmes, and so the priority is to operate partnerships which provide students with a first-class academic experience to complement a St Andrews education. At undergraduate level, the University is developing programmes in new destinations and increasing opportunities in subjects with low participation rates.

A further priority of the University's mobility strategy is to maximise access to funding opportunities so as to enable students to participate in Study Abroad irrespective of their financial background. Consequently the University has established a scholarship fund, 'St Andrews Students Abroad', as part of our 600th Anniversary campaign and in celebration of our global connections. Scholarships, and participation in Erasmus programmes, will help to ensure that more St Andrews students have access to Study Abroad opportunities.

The University continues to develop a number of degree programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level which are delivered collaboratively with strategic partners. In the United States, our longstanding and close collaboration with the College of William and Mary has enabled us to develop a unique and truly integrated joint undergraduate degree programme, the BA International Honours. In Europe, our Erasmus partnerships and research ties have led to our participation in innovative Mundus programmes, as well as a new initiative to offer a joint Master's in German and Comparative Literature with the University of Bonn. Mobility through high quality joint degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level increases the pool of students with the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue research degrees at St Andrews or elsewhere. At research level, joint degrees are developed in line with staff expertise and academic links, leading to further collaborative projects. Joint degree programmes are crucial to the University's objective to grow its postgraduate research community.

2. If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

The University of St Andrews seeks to create and maintain strategic partnerships which foster comprehensive cooperation based on mutual academic strengths, from student and staff exchanges and placements, to curriculum enhancements and research collaborations.

The University has successfully participated in Erasmus and Erasmus Mundus activities and has developed close institutional links with several consortium partners, which have led to further collaboration. Under the new programme, the University will continue to focus on strategic alliances which offer opportunities for cooperation in a variety of areas.

Key to all our partnership arrangements is achieving added value for all involved. Therefore arrangements are always in place to monitor and support the preservation of quality of the experience at all levels.

3. *Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)*

St Andrews supports the aims of the Modernisation Agenda and, through participation in the Programme, will build on existing good practice and work with partners to exchange ideas, enhance engagement and develop new initiatives.

1. St Andrews is dedicated to widening participation to higher education and to widening access to the range of opportunities available to students once in higher education, including mobility.

High student satisfaction levels help to ensure one of the highest completion rates in the UK. Building on this success, participation in the Programme will enhance the St Andrews experience.

The University aims to grow its postgraduate research community, partly through international partnership and the development of co-tutelles.

2. St Andrews is highly ranked for research, teaching quality and the student experience. The University strives for excellence in learning and teaching, and promotes enhancement, a distinctive Scottish approach which infuses every level of pedagogy.

Critical to the academic strategy is the ability to adjust the portfolio of degrees, interdisciplinary approaches, collaborations and modes of delivery in line with the University's emerging needs, modern graduate attributes and societal changes.

The modern knowledge economy demands a highly skilled and flexible graduate workforce. Employability is integrated throughout the educational process at St Andrews, with particular emphasis on the distinctive skills developed through study at a research-intensive institution. Opportunities to develop employability attributes are provided via the curriculum, mobility schemes, internships and extra-curricular activities.

3. Mobility supports the University's aim to create a learning culture that is challenging, creative and flexible through the development of opportunities to experience other academic cultures and perspectives, while enhancing employability and co-curricular skills. Emphasis is placed on the quality and value of the academic experience offered through all Study Abroad and Work Placement schemes.

4. St Andrews is committed to promoting Knowledge Exchange across all disciplines through the application of quality research to economic development, policy issues and cultural engagement. The University has a dedicated Knowledge Transfer Centre, which plays a key role in assisting academics to exploit opportunities for Knowledge Transfer to business and in the University achieving economic impact from research activities. The Programme will aid further innovation, and facilitate the enhancement of strategic alliances and business links.

5. Student participation is embedded in University governance. The student experience strategy aims to engage students with issues of social responsibility, such as sustainable development, involvement in University governance and contributions to the local community. Participation in the Programme will aid the sharing of best practice and enrich student engagement.

Signed on behalf of the University:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm MacLeod', written in a cursive style.

Professor Malcolm MacLeod

Vice-Principal (Enterprise and Engagement)