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Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

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)

Original language [EN]

Sustaining and enhancing our status as a Global University is a key theme of UoL's Strategic Plan 2009/14. The Internationalisation strategy supports the Plan, and an EU strategy is in development. Strategic partners are characteristically comprehensive universities ranked in the top 200 world institutions which share UoL's values. UoL selects mobility partners on the basis of rank, academic fit, availability of English language provision and location. A rigorous process of UoL approval is required for both strategic and mobility partnerships. Strategic partnerships are considered at the highest level by International Board made up of the Vice Chancellor and all Pro Vice Chancellors. Mobility partnerships undergo two stage approval (initial and full), including a site visit, and appropriate reporting to Collaborative Partnerships Sub-Committee. Once agreed appropriate contracts (MoUs or bilateral agreements) are put into place.

There is a drive to embed mobility in strategic partnerships where possible. Strategic partnerships focus on E & S Coast USA, Asia (especially China including Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan), Brazil, India & the EU. Mobility partnerships target the EU (primarily France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Scandinavia) and non EU - USA, Canada, Brazil, Hong Kong, Australia, South America, mainland China and Malaysia.

Mobility has several objectives for students. For first cycle students objectives are enhancing language skills, increasing employability and developing intercultural competence. A major first cycle target group is students of modern languages, who take a compulsory study or work year abroad in one or more countries. In recent academic years promotional efforts have actively targeted first cycle students who do not have compulsory mobility included in their programme. These first cycle students can be divided into those taking professional degrees (Architecture, Medicine, Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Health Sciences, Accountancy, Civic Design) and non professional degrees (the main non professional mobility being within Humanities and Social Sciences subjects). Professional degree students have a focussed choice of study abroad destination to ensure they retain their professional accreditation. Alongside its established first cycle EU mobility, UoL focusses its international promotional efforts in particular on mainland China, due to the rise of China as a global economic power and the growth of Mandarin as a world language. UoL has two significant mobility partnerships in China. The partnership with South China University of Technology provides undergraduate students of all degree programmes with the opportunity to study Mandarin intensively for a year. Liverpool's strategic partner in China is a joint venture university, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU). XJTLU offers UoL students the chance to complete a semester or a year of a range of degree programmes in China, taught through English language medium and with the opportunity to study Mandarin alongside degree studies.

Due to academic restrictions second cycle students are not currently a mobility target group. Currently only a handful of third cycle students are mobile. However, in line with its focus on research excellence, UoL is beginning to recognise the opportunities for third cycle students to participate in mobility, particularly within the EU. For third cycle students it is likely that objectives would focus on enhancing research performance, increasing employability and developing professional networks. A more detailed strategy, feeding into the PGR Development Programme, needs to be put into place.

Academic staff mobility to all areas of the EU is a growing area for UoL and a major target group are staff who have not previously participated. Raising the number of administrative staff taking part in training is also an objective which is likely to be carried out through staff taking part in appropriate organised training weeks rather than organising ad hoc visits.

UoL actively participates in dual and joint awards for first and third cycle. The largest first cycle partner for dual awards is with XJTLU in China. As benefits a strategic partner, this agreement covers a range of subjects, mainly Science and Engineering and/or professional subjects and involves over 1,000 students per year. Other first cycle dual awards are smaller scale and focus on specific subjects. UoL will continue to develop first cycle arrangements for dual and joint awards on the strategic level whilst simultaneously retaining the flexibility to respond to subject specific opportunities on a smaller scale. UoL has 17 agreements for dual / joint awards at third cycle, over 70% of which are held with strategic partners. The development of such arrangements, in particular with strategic partners, will continue to be supported by the International Development Office.

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)

Original language [EN]

UoL will seek to engage with Action 2 of the programme 'Co-operation for innovation and good practices,' in particular with (a) transnational education partnerships, and (b) transnational partnerships between enterprises and higher education institutions.

UoL's core strategy for international teaching and training co-operation projects is to participate in projects which will:

Enable the institution to influence Higher Education policy in the EU and internationally

Support the university in taking a more strategic approach to EU funding

Provide opportunities for inter-regional co-operation

Ensure UoL's engagement dovetails with city-region ambitions

Projects could be developed or taken part in either at academic department or central University level. Whilst central projects will directly contribute to the objectives above, it will be important to retain a degree of flexibility for smaller scale projects within specific academic areas which might not necessarily make a direct contribution to the objectives above, yet have value within their particular area.

It is important that teaching and training co-operation projects are embedded within the key relationships that the University has nationally and internationally. In terms of geographical area, central projects will be focussed on UoL's priority countries, regions, and cities (E & S Coast USA, Asia - China, Malaysia, Japan, Brazil, the EU, in particular Ireland & with a focus on port cities).

Existing Higher Education strategic partners will be given preference when the University seeks to put a consortium together for a project bid. The University is active in the area of Knowledge Transfer, and has a range of relationships with businesses of all sizes and across a number of sectors to draw on when seeking partners.

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)

Original language [EN]

Priority 1: UoL promotes the programme to its target schools and colleges, helping to raise interest in, and eventual enrolment in, Higher Education, thus increasing Higher Education participation. Many of UoL's target schools and colleges lie in areas of traditionally low participation and the Study Abroad presentations, along with the general outreach work, will increase the numbers of students from these areas coming into Higher Education. UoL provides a high-quality Study Abroad experience for both incoming and outgoing students (approximately 600 per year). Study Abroad is known to increase student motivation level, both whilst abroad and on return home, thus helping to retain students in Higher Education. Study Abroad will enhance students' employability. Students seeing the employability benefits of Higher Education are more likely to continue with their degree programme and eventually to graduate.

Priority 2: Languages are becoming a key focus of the University, making courses more relevant and better suited to business needs. The University is striving to give all students the opportunity to study one or more languages either as an integral part of, or as an add-on, to a degree programme; plans are well advanced for the introduction of Mandarin across the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and proposals are also under discussion for the remaining Faculties.

Priority 3: Recognising the independence, intercultural and language skills gained through study abroad, together with enhanced employability, the University is expanding its Study Abroad provision both in the EU and internationally, aiming to double the numbers of students going abroad by 2014. Quality will be further increased through incoming and outgoing staff mobility which provides an opportunity for students to experience a different perspective on their usual subject, and fosters exchange of good practice between academic staff. Exchange of experience fostered under Action 2 will also increase quality. For those UoL students who are unable to go abroad, incoming students, who are often of a very high quality, provide an international dimension to the home curriculum. Similarly, outgoing Liverpool students (who must attain a 60% threshold to study abroad) will provide an international perspective at the institution they visit.

Priority 4: The University will engage in opportunities for co-operation for innovation / good practice through Action 2. In particular it will continue its focus on Knowledge Alliances. This will be done in the framework of the wider co-operation with the Liverpool City Region to ensure that all activities actively benefit the local economy.

Priority 5: Quality Assurance is a key theme for the University, in particular with regard to joint and double degrees. The University will seek to engage with projects exchanging good practice in this area.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)