

***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

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]

Leeds Trinity University is firmly committed to developing the international dimension in higher education. We encourage our students and staff to study, teach and work abroad, and welcome students and staff from other countries to visit us and encourage the development of European and international elements in the curriculum. Our current involvement focuses on the mobility of individuals and touches on multilateral projects and networks. We aim to develop our programme to a higher and more extensive level in the next phase of Erasmus programme participation.

Our current internationalisation strategy (2008-2013) articulates that the building of international partnerships and alliances will facilitate and support mobility and enable students and staff to begin to acquire a global perspective in relation to their professional and personal development. We consider various factors in choosing partners, for example, foundation, values and ethos, accessibility, ambition, course provision, medium of instruction and the geographical area, etc. Seeking to build collaborative partnerships and strengthen strategic and operational links with such institutions will offer potential opportunities for enhancement of the work of Leeds Trinity in terms of curriculum development, personal and professional development of staff and students and reputation and market positioning. Our current partnerships include the Erasmus network covering Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern Europe and non-EU links covering the Far East, South Asia and North America. We are in the process of developing a new internationalisation strategy, planning to expand our networks.

We pride ourselves on our outstanding reputation for teaching excellence, student satisfaction and graduate employability rate, however, we must never become complacent. We feel the most important objective for us to grow international partnerships is to continuously improve our provision to help our students to "upskill". In an increasingly globalised world the value of international mobility is widely accepted as a tool to achieve the "upskilling", which can further enhance our graduates' employability.

We highly value our Investors in People Gold Award and our staff, both academic and administrative, are encouraged to take teaching / training mobilities and get involved in international-related projects. The experience can help them develop the international dimension in teaching, learning, research and general administration, and encourage their students to think and act more internationally. Some of our third cycle students are also offered opportunities to attend international conferences and visit universities overseas.

The current student mobility programmes are mainly for our first cycle students, although students on some professionally accredited degrees such as teacher training and psychology cannot be released for study placements. The departments concerned are exploring ways for their students to take work placements abroad. Such projects would have been successfully set up under the Erasmus scheme if the minimum length required could be reduced from 3 to 2 months.

Due to time constraint with our one-year second cycle programmes, it is more difficult for our Master's students to take mobilities, however, we are looking for opportunities to work with partners to provide our postgraduate students the opportunity to study abroad. Now that we have become an independent University, we will be exploring with partners the possibility of running collaborative programmes so all our students, including second and short cycle students may also be able to spend a period abroad. Since we only gained our University status in December 2012, we have not participated in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees yet but this may be an area to be explored further now that we have become a full University.

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]

Our strategy for the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and training follows the same as what is implemented under the Programme:

- To work with partners who have synergy with us so together we can foster a long-term collaborative partnership of mutual benefit;
- To cover the geographical areas that are attractive to us, where we hope to develop as part of our institutional strategy;
- To work with institutions whose curricula either match or complement ours;
- To ensure we fulfil the requirements on quality assurance, financial viability and sustainability;
- To adhere to the principles agreed and implement the operational plans accordingly, however, remain culturally sensitive, open-minded and be prepared to change, if required.

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]

Our continuing participation in the Programme will help modernise our institution:

1. Increase attainment levels: we are fully committed to raising the aspiration and attainment of learners from diverse backgrounds. We place widening participation at the heart of everything we do, through various schemes to encourage under-represented groups to apply and provide additional guidance and financial support to students from low socio economic background. We recognize prior learning, but we need to improve our system so we can reach out to an even wider audience. Mobility can help our students and staff develop their cultural understanding and communication with partners in search of best practices may help us improve processes to reduce drop-out rate.
2. Improve quality and relevance of HE: our graduate employability rate has been at least 93% over the last decade, but there is still room for improvement. The Programme helps participants to gain two-way knowledge. The upskilling will enable our graduates and staff to become more employable in a global context. We aim to improve the use of ICTs to improve learning experiences, course delivery and administration. Collaboration with partners can also provide us with a platform to develop flexible study routes such as distance and online learning.
3. Quality through mobility & international co-operation: we fully recognise study abroad and ECTS. The Programme increased our in-house capacity and knowledge, but the continuing and more active involvement will help us to make our processes more efficient in future. We have started exploring with partners the double /multiple /joint degree possibilities, which may allow students to move between programmes across different countries.
4. Education, research & innovation for excellence and regional development: we are committed to developing new and innovative relationships with organisations regionally, nationally and internationally. The organisations provide our students with over 1000 placements every year, and help us design curricula incorporating innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship to meet the current and future labour market. We provide SMEs with support to engage with the practical knowledge and expertise available at the University. Some of our mobility projects are linked to regional development initiatives in other countries and part of our future strategy will be to expand on the international dimension in knowledge alliances, which may bring together businesses and institutions to strengthen and develop Europe's innovation potential.
5. Governance & Funding to support strategic choices: effective governance and funding systems are a pre-requisite for success. Various key documents about the University at <http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/aboutus/Pages/KeyDocuments.aspx> cover our structure, strategies, regulations, and financial reports. This in a way demonstrates our strategic leadership through stringent management systems and our commitment to quality assurance and transparency throughout our operations. To enhance our autonomy and accountability, in decision making processes we highly value the input from our wider stakeholders. We will explore with partners on how we can be more creative with our course provision and delivery format, whilst adhering to clear principles for quality assurance of cross-border education. We are committed to maintaining our financial viability by promoting cost-effectiveness, expenditure control within budget and the return to investment. We also seek diversification to draw in funding from diverse sources and manage resources efficiently. Closer collaboration with partners may lead to the development of joint programmes, which may create different sources of income and further enhance our financial position.