



University College Dublin

UCD International

Gerard Manley Hopkins Centre

Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

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)

UCD's international strategy aims to provide a comprehensive, coherent and structured support to the university's ambition to become Ireland's foremost university and a recognised leading research-intensive university. The strategy is based on the four key areas of international relations, marketing and recruitment, the international experience in UCD and infrastructure, systems and policies. Furthermore, in a climate of economic disruption, it is clear that graduates need to be flexible and mobile, and a coherent internationalisation strategy contributes to the engagement of our students and graduates in global issues and awareness of diversity.

UCD, as Ireland's largest university, is already firmly committed to internationalisation, and this forms an integral part of the current overall university strategy, as the title "Forming Global Minds" illustrates. The international student population of UCD now stands at 20%, an increase of 72% in the last seven years. The ultimate objective is to have 25% of the student population being international, so targeted marketing and recruitment is essential to achieve this. Increasing the international profile of specific programmes diversifies the cohort of international students already on campus, and aims to attract high-quality graduate students and researchers.

With growing numbers of UCD students availing of mobility abroad during their studies, and international students spread across all disciplines and levels, the internationalisation strategy is being implemented and challenged on a daily basis.

a) Partners are chosen on the basis of the quality of education that they offer, and how it complements UCD's strengths and planned developments. Partnerships are envisioned as being long-term and sustainable. The evolution of the relationships with partner institutions should provide opportunities for UCD staff and students across a range of activities, including mobility, curriculum development, training and research. UCD's tripartite

agreement with Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast is seen as adding value to UCD's academic programmes and research portfolio, as well as contributing to social cohesion and economic development on the island of Ireland. Through its membership of the Universitas 21 network, UCD has a worldwide platform to develop collaboration on all levels, as well as best practice in university management.

b) UCD is open to partnerships in a variety of geographical areas, and is engaged in ongoing development of regional priorities. Activity is evident worldwide, in Europe, the CIS, the Americas, Middle East, Africa, Asia and Oceania. Academic and research linkages for each area is built through addressing the aims and needs of UCD Colleges and Schools and their staff and students.

c) Mobility activities are centred on providing a suite of international opportunities which will create a unique international perspective on UCD degree programmes. Having been involved in the Erasmus programme since it was created, UCD already has a large network of European partners, among them some of the leading institutions in the world. The past decade has seen an expansion of our non-European partners, and students now have a wide variety of destinations to choose from when contemplating a mobility period. The strategy aims to grow opportunities for subject areas with relatively low levels of engagement in mobility and to ensure that staff and students are aware of new opportunities. Students at all levels of their academic career are included in the promotion of mobility, and 2nd and 3rd cycle mobility has increased significantly in recent years.

UCD has a number of joint, double and multiple degree programmes, and the advent of the Erasmus Mundus programme has given some of this an increased international profile. Such programmes are at all three cycles, and cover areas as diverse as Food Safety and Humanitarian Assistance. Proposals for new programmes must go through an internal approval process to ensure that they meet internal criteria relating to academic quality and to ensure that the roles of all partners are clarified.

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)

UCD is involved in almost twenty ongoing international projects funded through the Lifelong Learning Programme, as well as others through Tempus and Erasmus Mundus. These will continue as the new Erasmus for All Programme comes into being. In UCD, the International Office gives support to our academics when they are preparing their project applications. Once successful, the Office can also assist with practical issues such as student reception and registration. The implementation of the projects rests with the academic units concerned, as they integrate them into the regular teaching and training programmes available in their Schools. The terms of the contracts, budget requirements and other guidelines relating to the projects are at all times used to direct their administration. As such applications generally evolve from previous co-operation with the partner institutions, and often other projects, the co-ordinating academics in UCD are aware of the need for accurate records and reporting, and adherence to the projected outcomes of their projects.

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)*

The new Erasmus for All Programme will continue and build on the achievements of 25 years of European mobility and co-operation. This fits perfectly with the aims of UCD's current strategic plan, which states as part of its vision that the university aims to be "a leading international research-intensive university where excellence in education goes hand in glove with a commitment to research, scholarship, creativity and innovation".

1: UCD will continue to build on its success in widening participation in higher education, in particular by the provision of part-time programmes. In the future, it is planned that students from diverse social and educational backgrounds will comprise 25% of the student body. The university aims to develop the undergraduate curriculum, fully exploiting the flexibility of its modular structure. At graduate level, the taught Masters portfolio will be expanded and doctoral programmes developed, with the aim of increasing graduate students numbers, developing the talent pool that will underpin the future growth and impact of these research initiatives.

2: UCD is committed to excellence, benchmarked against international standards, and has already embraced the reforms of the Bologna Process. Quality of teaching, research and innovation is central to its vision. The impact of participation in the Programme will only increase this as staff and students encounter new ideas and practices through ongoing collaboration. Ongoing developments in research and innovation link academic achievements to national and international business and technology.

3: UCD's Strategic Plan will the university building on its major all-island and international collaborations. Membership of the Universitas 21 and UNICA networks offers valuable opportunities in terms of student mobility, global research collaborations and exchange of good practice on many levels. The Erasmus programme has always been highly important to UCD's international strategy and continues to be so, and the use of ECTS and the Diploma Supplement in UCD allow for intra-Europe mobility for graduates and researchers.

4: Innovation is emphasised as the third pillar of UCD's activity, complementing education and research. A commitment to innovation highlights the importance of cutting-edge research and development, and is a response to the stated national policy priority of developing Ireland as a smart economy. Activities will take the form of formal collaborations, partnerships and joint ventures with industry, non-governmental organisations and arts and cultural organisations.

5: Improving governance and funding: UCD aims to lessen reliance on state funding sources by expanding revenue from academic and commercial arenas, as well as eliminating excessive or inefficient resource usage. This is seen as complementing a targeted investment in campus infrastructure to enhance and support the academic sphere.