



Your Erasmus Policy Statement¹ should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE². Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

As Ireland's Global University, UCD continues to build on its global engagement objectives while rising to the challenges of the future. The University aims to be truly global in its range of disciplines, research and innovation, holistic educational experience, the diversity of the University community, and in engagement with all sectors of society and with all regions of the world. UCD's strategy aims to bring the best of the world to Ireland, and the best of Ireland, including its distinct cultures, to the world.

UCD is already firmly committed to internationalisation and modernisation, recognising that its graduates need to be flexible and mobile, with engagement in global issues and awareness of diversity. In addition, the international student population of UCD now stands at 29%, and has increased steadily in the last seven years, exceeding the target of 25% stated in a previous strategy. Within its overall institutional strategy, UCD recognises the role of global engagement in supporting its four main themes.

The [UCD Strategy 2020-2024 Rising to the Future](#) has four strategic themes, the second of which is Transforming through Digital Technology. The university will develop existing innovations in digital culture, embedded in its teaching and learning, to maximise digital technologies in all areas. Similarly, the new Erasmus+ cycle is embracing innovation and new technology as it builds on over 30 years of European mobility and co-operation and moves to introduce streamlined technical solutions for mobility.

As a participant in the Erasmus programme since it began, UCD has always valued its collaborations with its European partners. As well as student and staff mobility, UCD has been active in the other funded actions, as well in the EU research programmes. UCD's Erasmus mobility numbers in Key Action 103 have increased by 25% since 2014, reflecting the promotion of such experience to students and staff and the greater awareness of the value of international experience in academic, career and personal development.

UCD has been an active participant in the Key Action 107 programme from the first call for applications in 2015. In the first five years of the programme, 228 students and staff have participated in ICM exchanges between UCD and 26 Partner Countries worldwide.

¹ Submitted as part of UCD's application for the ECHE in May 2020

² Erasmus Charter for Higher Education – awarded to UCD in May 2021 for the period 2021-2027

In addition to KA103 and KA107, UCD's level of engagement with other Erasmus+ Actions (EMJMDs, KA2, KA3 and Jean Monnet activities) has also grown significantly since 2014. In the last five years, UCD has participated in 21 Erasmus+ projects totalling over €16 million in funding, and 16 of these projects are still ongoing.³

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. To contribute to this, UCD is a member of the networks Universitas 21, UNICA and WUN, through which it can maximise its mobility, research and collaboration opportunities into the future.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

Implementation of Key Actions

Key Action 1 projects are managed centrally by the Global Relations and Partnerships team in UCD Global, UCD's international office. This team also provides support to individuals across the University who are interested in or are actively participating in Key Action 2 and 3 projects. The support includes raising awareness of these opportunities, matching applicants with partner universities and organisations internationally, providing support at the proposal stage, supporting the implementation of projects, quality governance, sharing of best practice and dissemination of results.

UCD intends to participate in each of the Actions of the Erasmus+ programme as they are all instrumental in helping UCD deliver the objectives set out in its institutional and global engagement strategies, as detailed below:

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

One of the core objectives of the new UCD Strategy 2020-2024 is to “continue to build our engagement locally, nationally and internationally,” and the strategy goes on to state that “opportunities will be provided for staff and students to avail of mobility initiatives, both virtually and physically.” The Erasmus KA1 action supports this at every level of UCD's academic programmes, allowing students an international experience that promotes their academic and personal development, intercultural competencies and is integral to their studies. Mobility options in UCD are available for undergraduate and postgraduate (including PhD) students, allowing for ongoing participation in each study cycle.

Another core objective of the strategy is to “develop our faculty and staff”, through “training and development opportunities”. KA1 staff mobility supports this as it contributes greatly to professional development and the exchange of good practice. UCD has always participated actively in teaching exchanges, but recent years have seen a steady growth in staff training mobility, which has opened international best practice and personal networks to staff working in all areas of the university, allowing them to build their knowledge and skills.

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Here are a few examples of how KA2 projects support UCD's strategic objectives:

³ Data correct as of May 2020

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships supporting exchange of good practices support UCD's commitment to internationalisation and modernisation by enabling the sharing of innovative practices and deepening cooperation with partner HEIs.

Capacity Building projects which support the modernisation of higher education in Partner Countries achieve UCD's objective of bringing the best of the world to Ireland, and the best of Ireland to the world.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programmes prepare UCD graduates to become flexible and mobile, and also help UCD build its global reputation for excellence in education, research, innovation and impact.

Partnerships for Excellence - European Universities: The second objective of UCD's Global Engagement Strategy is to 'extend and develop strategic relationships to enhance our global engagement'. The European Universities initiative would give UCD the opportunity to work with partners and go beyond existing higher education cooperation models and develop shared, integrated and long-term joint strategies with strategic partner institutions.

Erasmus Key Action 3:

One of the Key Objectives of UCD's Global Engagement strategy is to "increase the global impact of our scholarship, research and innovation. Key Action 3 projects aimed at stimulating innovative policy development, policy dialogue and implementation support this objective.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution? Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

As an institution, UCD recognises the value and benefit of mobility opportunities for students and staff. The UCD Global Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 supports the vision to "bring the best of the world to Ireland and the best of Ireland, including its distinct cultures, to the world", with the strategy outlining a specific objective to develop a distinctive global culture which will encompass all aspects of university life. This aspiration complements and supports actions identified under UCD's Education Strategy, specifically, to provide students with opportunities to develop interpersonal, intercultural and life skills within and outside the classroom.

In response, UCD has identified and implemented projects that have supported a desire to increase mobility opportunities for staff and students, whilst also reviewing existing procedures and partnerships, and identifying barriers to participation. Within the next iteration of UCD's global engagement strategy, which is due to be published in late 2020, UCD will include KPI's to support staff and student mobility initiatives, which will be implemented over the next four years. This also includes the development of student and staff toolkits to support engagement, whilst providing outreach initiatives across UCD Colleges and Schools to increase participation. An example of such a project is the KA203 project "DIGIPASS - Virtual Environments for Supporting Mobility", where UCD is one of six partners who are focused on developing an online student and staff toolkit to support each stage of the mobility lifecycle. This project will be complete by August 2021, and will form part of UCD's orientation and engagement plan for mobility programmes.⁴

⁴ Project end date extended to 31 December 2021 due to COVID-19