

Oxford Brookes University - Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The overarching objective of the University's internationalisation strategy is to continue the process of transforming the University into a wholly international community with an internationalised culture and curriculum.

The internationalisation strategy will achieve this objective by coordinating and directing activities within the overall context of a globally competitive arena, the new challenges posed by instantaneous and borderless communications and the changing expectations of partners. The international strategy will seek to create distinctiveness and enhance the international reputation of the University.

The internationalisation strategy is intended to:

- Be inclusive and affect every member of staff, whether academic or administrative/support, to varying degrees such that internationalisation is embedded throughout the University. The approach is therefore 'comprehensive', developing a strategy to embed the principles and practice of internationalisation within the University's culture and curriculum, mission and outlook.
- Coordinate actions across the University to deliver internationalisation. This will ensure that - in a time of continuous change in the external environment both nationally and internationally - the University is able to respond to the opportunities and gain a strategic advantage.
- Build upon the University's 2007 international strategy. The revised strategy aims to enhance existing areas of strength and to identify new areas of opportunity such as Europe.
- Provide top level, overarching strategic direction for internationalisation within Brookes. Implementation of policies will define key priorities and major areas where the University needs to focus its resources.
- Design an implementation plan to identify priorities and focus, measuring progress against a set of carefully designed key performance indicators.

Selection of International Partners

The International strategy of the University focuses on partnership development and transnational education as a strategic priority. It recognizes sustainability as a goal of partnership development and seeks to explore partnerships with overseas institutions which provide the opportunity for a variety of models, or participation across a number of faculties.

Primary reasons for partner selection would be one or more of the following: reputational (either to generally enhance the Brookes' brand or reputation or to enhance the University's reputation in a specific area, particularly one which exploited Brookes' expertise), academic (to share curriculum expertise or facilitate student mobility) or financial (to generate income).

Selection criteria are underpinned by the following guiding principles:

- Proposed collaborative partnerships must clearly be shown to assist the University in achieving its academic objectives.

- Partnerships must be commercially viable.
- There must be a strong alignment of values with the proposed partner.
- An appropriate risk assessment, including an 'exit strategy' for students must be undertaken.
- Proposals for overseas collaborations must be aligned with and support the University's internationalisation strategy

Geographical Areas

Engaging with Europe is a priority as there is a good match between EU priorities for research funding schemes and many Brookes' disciplines. However, engagement in Europe is not exclusive, and the University supports a broad globally focused international strategy.

Mobility Objectives

1. The University is committed to removing barriers and constraints to student mobility and increasing the international exposure and mobility of its students through curriculum, teaching and learning, summer schools and facilitation of placements and exchanges, as well as the administrative systems that support these.
2. The University is committed to supporting interchange of staff and students and joint research activity with international partners. This is supported through the International Research Visitors Scheme.
3. The University is committed to supporting the mobility of staff whether academic, or support staff, as a means of staff development and in order to embed internationalisation throughout the University.

Programme Development

A range of international partnership arrangements are practised by the University, all conforming to the QAA Code of Practice. Arrangements include Franchising, Validation (including dual and joint programmes), Flying Faculty, and Articulation. However, many of the partnerships actually involve a more complex relationship than suggested by the specified models, particularly in the case for validation/franchise arrangements.

Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training

International cooperation projects in teaching and training are fundamental to the operation of the University, contributing to the experience of staff and students, in addition to informing curriculum development and supporting research.

The University's internationalisation strategy specifies the development of mutually beneficial strategic alliances and international partnerships, which includes those relationships developed through the programme. The strategy highlights the need for development of true 'partnerships' with benefits flowing both to the University and to the partner.

The Internationalisation strategy prioritises Brookes' engagement with Europe. A close affinity with Europe presents significant opportunities for Brookes. The benefits to University, its staff and student community will be realised through increased study, work, research, funding and collaboration opportunities with European institutions and organisations.

Whether projects are instigated through Oxford Brookes International, or via the Faculties, the management of international projects for teaching, research or training, will ensure that roles and responsibilities are clarified. Professional expertise will be provided within each Faculty in order to support project and partnership development, with Faculties taking the lead on the academic aspects of any project and management/administration of the project undertaken by the Exchanges Team, as appropriate. Research related activities will be facilitated by the Research Team in the respective Faculties.

Modernisation Agenda

Participation in the programme will contribute to the realisation of the University's 2020 strategy and the modernisation of the institution.

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

The University recognises the need to increase attainment levels, whilst attracting a greater cross-section of society into higher education. The student community comprises of individuals from a variety of backgrounds and in a number of flexible delivery options. Participation in the programme will add an increasingly international dimension to the student population.

The University intends to implement a fully internationalised curriculum across all disciplines, thereby promoting diversity amongst staff and students. Development will be informed by the experience of international teaching and research opportunities supported by the programme. It will promote collaboration with other higher education institutions, through larger scale projects and individual knowledge transfer, maintained by an infrastructure which supports research and related activities.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

The University recognises the need to be responsive in the face of current economic challenges and to review its activities with the aim of providing opportunities for a wide range of students to experience work placements. This will be achieved through the strengthening of its partnerships with employers, particularly those in Europe and supported by the funding opportunities available through the programme.

The University will continue to develop mutually beneficial partnerships, nationally and internationally, to facilitate the application of education, research, and knowledge transfer and to prepare the University's graduates to be global citizens.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

The University aims for its graduates to be able to live and work effectively in multi-cultural settings. It will develop programmes that nurture a range of graduate attributes and

encourage students to be outwardly mobile, through study, or work placement and to develop working relationships beyond the boundaries of the University.

4. Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

The University expects the learning experiences of its students to be of the highest possible standards and will base its practices on the knowledge gleaned through its research and its relationships with HEIs and business, UK and internationally.

5. Improving governance and funding

The University recognises the need to manage its activities to achieve self-sustaining and robust finances and a strong position relative to the HE sector. It intends to develop and enhance the quality and efficiency of the University's infrastructure and services, with a view to supporting its delivery both in the UK and across the globe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Beer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Name: Professor Janet Beer

Vice-Chancellor

Date: 08/01/2014