ERASMUS+ CHARTER POLICY STATEMENT

Edinburgh is a truly international university firmly rooted in Scotland, and an overarching theme for our University Strategic Plan is to increase our global impact and our contribution to society. The University of Edinburgh’s International Strategy is led by the Vice-Principal International and is assisted by the International Office. The purpose of the Strategy is to embed internationalisation across the University through the building of high-quality research and teaching partnerships; advancing student mobility; enhancing international student and staff recruitment; engaging with alumni from around the world and supporting our international students.

The University of Edinburgh has made a high level strategic commitment to enhancing opportunities for mobility for all of our students and staff by setting an ambitious target (University of Edinburgh Strategic Plan 2012-2016 Target 7.3) “to create at least 800 new opportunities for our students to gain an international experience as part of their Edinburgh degree” and the Erasmus + Programme is an important component in this. The University of Edinburgh is committed to increasing the opportunities for our students to have a meaningful international experience as part of their degree. We actively encourage and support all of our students to study, work, volunteer and/or research abroad, ensuring that Edinburgh graduates develop employability and global citizenship skills through an outstanding array of opportunities, for which they are given recognition.

Strategic collaborations with world-class universities provide a multicultural experience for both students and staff. The University has developed a range of partnerships with some of the world’s most prestigious institutions of higher education. We continue to develop long-term productive relationships with international universities that augment the international standing of the University. Our mobility partnerships whether institution wide, School led or researcher-to-researcher are driven by shared academic interest and focused on generating sustainable outcomes that build on the synergies between the partners. Our international partnerships not only focus on regions but also on scholarship and research into major medical, technological and cultural themes that impact quality of life.

Participation in the Erasmus + Programme advances our strategic engagement with the European modernisation and internationalisation agenda. Participation in the Programme will deliver benefits to a broader cross section of society by ensuring that students and staff are able to study and work across Europe whilst equipping our graduates with skills, knowledge and attributes that will assist them in a highly competitive global labour market. The University’s Strategic Plan 2012-2016 highlights that we seek “to create the conditions under which our students, staff and the wider community are inspired and supported to engage with and contribute to social responsibility and sustainability across the University and beyond”.

We have a high level commitment to create and maintain a diverse community of students and staff that enriches the learning, working and social experience for all. We are committed to fully supporting our students in their learning and career planning so that they achieve a good outcome from their studies and progress to further study or high-quality employment. Evidence is clear that mobility and international experience enhances graduate employment prospects and our participation in the Programme will advance this for our students. Edinburgh is committed to working with employers, professional bodies, alumni and other stakeholders to ensure our degree programmes are responsive to need, producing graduates with socially and economically valuable attributes and expertise. We are committed via participation in the Programme to motivating and preparing our students to gain an experience abroad as part of their degree, through vacation work or volunteering, or to undertake national or international work-based learning, recognising the benefits this brings to their educational, personal and career development.