

Harper Adams University Erasmus Policy Statement

The International Strategy is agreed by the University's Academic Board and the Board of Governors. Ongoing evaluation of the strategy, against its specific measurable outcomes, is led by the Director of Learning, Teaching and International with input from key staff who form the University's International Working Group.

The International Working Group, via the Erasmus Coordinator and International Exchange Coordinator considers new partnerships and these are formalised as appropriate by the Quality and Standards Committee and monitored by the Collaborative Programmes Management Committee. The latter committee maintains a record of all collaborative provision, including Erasmus agreements, which is publicly available on the University's website. Institutional links and partnerships are approved in accord with the institution's strategic objectives as well as their coherence with courses, quality of the student experience, provision of professional support services, staff research and teaching interests and relevant student networks.

Staff and student exchange/mobility is one of the key aims of the Internationalisation Strategy and the University promotes the view that all students have an opportunity to study abroad and that exchange options are available in the placement year of their course. The University is signed up to the Universities UK International (UUKi) 'Outward Mobility Campaign' and is driving to increase the number of students who take the opportunity to spend time overseas.

The University strives to provide Erasmus students with an excellent experience while studying here and this will include cultural visits, workplace visits and opportunities to develop their English language skills. The university is also committed to securing and recognising positive international graduate outcomes for our students and has a working group focused on how our international alumni progress positively in their careers.

The International exchange/Erasmus Coordinator manages the process of selection and acceptance of students for study here and applies fair and consistent processes for this in accord with the Erasmus Charter. Further, the Coordinator manages the process of recognising and awarding academic credits for study and these are noted prior to students arriving in the UK.

The International Exchange Coordinator, in tandem with the Director of Learning, Teaching and International, has responsibility for managing arriving and outgoing mobilities for staff and students. Students receive clear guidance on what is expected of them, before departure, and maintain regular contact with the university coordinator and relevant staff as appropriate to their course of study. Students are required to report on/evaluate their experiences abroad when they return and this creates feedback for the University and its partner institutions. Follow-up actions and developments are handled by the International Exchange Coordinator and relevant staff in key service areas as part of the International Working Group. The University provides detailed pre-arrival information and an induction programme is provided to all newly arrived students. When students have completed their exchange they are provided with a transcript of study to return with to the home institution/country.

The University provides specialist English language support, via a dedicated, team to all exchange students both in group sessions and one-to-one tutorials as required. The University is committed to providing its shorter-term exchange students with the same quality of teaching, learning and support as fully registered awards students and all students have access to all available student support services.

The University informs students of the Erasmus+ scheme via course specific talks, website information and other marketing/communications activities. Former Erasmus students share their reports and feedback via case studies for web-based news items at regular junctures.

The University celebrates Erasmus mobilities for staff as a positive aspect of ongoing continuing professional development and encourages staff to make new links and take advantage of existing ones. We frequently welcome visiting staff from many partner overseas institutions and these visits inform our practice, broaden our international strategy and often lead to further collaborations in research or teaching.