

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)**

Outline of the strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities

The growth of European activity and mobility of staff and students is a key institutional goal for Perth College UHI and part of our strategic plan to 2016. We aim to offer modern and different learning experiences, attract, retain and develop high quality staff and build an international reputation for excellence.

Central to this is a commitment to greater internationalization of experience of students and staff and as a result our Erasmus activities will focus on mobility of these groups. To ensure inclusion of all students and staff in mobility, activities will extend to other actions under the LLP to include involvement in Leonardo and Grundtvig projects. This builds on successful work by our International Office which has been particularly successful in attracting students from out within the UK.

We currently have learning opportunities for around 350 international students, language school (120), studying at HNC, HND & degree level(130) and attending our Air Service Training school (100).

Priorities for Erasmus activities are to:

- Increase numbers of higher education students undertaking periods of study across the EU with particular reference to Business, Hospitality & Tourism & Creative Industries studies. Cooperation is planned with the University of Aschaffenburg and partners in Poland in the short term.
- Encourage academic staff to undertake periods of mobility in other European countries to facilitate training and CPD.
- Ensure that all periods of academic and placement mobility are validated and receive recognition.

These activities will enable us to establish better transnational partnerships and the basis from which to apply for funding to deliver multilateral project, networks and accompanying measures in the long term.

The institution has a solid track record in delivering European projects through the European Social fund which dates back over 5 years. Transnational experience has also been derived through Leonardo mobility projects partnering educational institutions in Poland, Finland, Portugal & France.

The visibility of Erasmus activities will be promoted by our internal and external communications strategies to encourage participation and share best practise. Internally activities will be promoted via the college intranet, flyers, plasmas on campus, and at our Freshers Fayre. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences on the programme through formal presentations. Participant reviews and project results will be shared with Senior Management, Curriculum leaders and students.

Externally we will use our website to promote attainment of the EUC and display our EPS. We will ensure that our commitment to Erasmus is communicated throughout our partner networks to include: University of Highlands & Islands (UHI), Scotland's Colleges, Employer networks and established European and International partners.

All students and staff taking part in projects will be selected on the basis of merit and the benefits anticipated. Perth UHI is committed to being both a HEI and employer of choice and is committed to the promotion of equality and diversity. We believe that there is no place for unlawful discrimination across our services and projects. Selection of students and staff to projects is carried out irrespective of sex, race, ethnic origin, religion or social background. Past projects have been designed to encourage participation from marginalised groups; it is the intention to ensure that the design of transnational projects meet and support the needs of such groups where appropriate.

Integrity of academic mobility will be enhanced via partnership agreements with partner HEIs. These will set out quality thresholds, operating procedures and reflect a full assessment of institutional suitability on basis of curriculum, policies, facilities and EUC status.