

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Falmouth University has recently been awarded full University status by the UK Government. The University is engaged in a period of transition that involves development and change within the established strategies and aspirations of the institution. Our international strategy expands on Objective 5 ('To be internationally significant') of the University's Strategic Plan. The purpose of the strategy is to:

- Define what internationalisation means for an aspiring world-class arts university
- Provide a framework for business decisions to improve performance in relation to this
- Establish the measures by which this performance will be judged
- Articulate a prioritised set of actions that will be undertaken

We believe that a specialist arts university needs productive, strategic relationships around the world—plus an increasingly diverse and mobile staff & student population—if its graduates are to prosper in the global creative industries. We believe that an internationally significant university is one in which learning, teaching, research and innovation are developed and delivered with reference to global questions and challenges. A fundamental Falmouth mission is 'to be a world-class arts university' and therefore it is vital that this global orientation informs our sub-strategies and key policies. The strategy focuses on 6 supporting objectives:

- I. More international students
- II. Better market intelligence
- III. A more global curriculum
- IV. Greater inward and outward mobility
- V. A focus on strategic alliances
- VI. An overtly international campus

Falmouth University has always welcomed a variety of international student artists, scholars and researchers who have found creative stimulus in the fully focussed integrated arts practice and research work of the institution. The international experience of the students and staff of Falmouth University within the field of arts practice and research has stimulated strategies for exchanging and disseminating work in a wide variety of international contexts, through staff/student mobility, curriculum development projects, conferences, and festival and exhibition participation. The broad International experience goes back over 80 years. We have been involved with the European Union's Higher Education Programmes since their inception.

The international strategy of the institution has been to monitor and evaluate these experiences and to establish where possible sustained good practice. Thus the choice of partners and the development of EU and non EU mobility strategy is based initially on the particular experience and aspirations of Falmouth University academic and management staff and visiting staff from a wide range of international contexts. As mobility has developed this strategy has also been informed by incoming and outgoing student mobility, together with curriculum development projects which have established sustained and productive partnerships.

The choice of geographical areas has evolved partly through the above strategy and partly through full-time student recruitment initiatives. These acknowledge Falmouth's place, along with the location of arts practices we teach and research, in a globalised and interdependent world for which staff and students of Falmouth University must be prepared by the experience of working and studying here. In addition within the European context, Falmouth University has sought to engage a wide range of central and Eastern European partnerships. It has been active in developing new and already established partnerships with those countries which have recently joined the EU, like Croatia; and with countries with potential EU membership like Turkey. It has historically strong links with countries like Norway and Switzerland that have developed associated status within the EU.

We welcome the new initiatives within the proposed 'Erasmus+' programme as they provide external support and recognition of the objectives of an integrated approach to the Falmouth internationalisation strategy. The development of Work Placements and Training initiatives are particularly welcome for an institution that has a well established placement programme, is committed to strong ties between HE and industry, and encourages staff research and development. An example of Falmouth's commitment to and investment in these areas is the Academy for Innovation & Research: <http://air.falmouth.ac.uk>

Falmouth staff have been involved in an attempt to create international degrees at Masters Level. It is hoped that this experience will be directed toward the development of and participation in double/multiple joint degrees. Falmouth's mobility objectives focus on increasing staff and student participation to ensure 'bottom up' development of active partnerships. Falmouth aims to ensure cooperation that increases the number and quality of outward mobilities. Mobility and value-adding cooperation are core objectives.

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