

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Mission

To contribute to the Bologna and Lisbon goals by fostering an international dimension within the College that provides the opportunity to transfer and recognise competencies and qualifications throughout Europe.

We are committed to working with our international partners to provide mobility opportunities that support the professional and personal skills development of both students and staff, sharing good practice and identifying the possibility of extending and continually improving the mobility experience, learning materials, methods, training courses and development of new products.

Strategy

The International Strategy is designed to create a framework to further promote New College Lanarkshire and its expertise in advancing mobility opportunities within the College and the wider Scottish Further and Higher Education system. As such, this plan will increase the potential for students, lecturers and other professional staff within the sector to undertake mobility placements, develop international collaboration and submit joint funding bids and proposals. In addition, this will support the strengthening of local and transnational partnerships, engagement and cooperation between various European and Non-European countries within the priority sectors of further and higher education. This plan draws upon the spirit of the Bologna Declaration of 1999 which emphasises the goal of “Promotion of mobility by overcoming obstacles to the effective exercise of free movement.”

Mobility as Key Driver for Internationalisation

Primary research from partner’s legacy of engagement with the Erasmus + programme has concluded that increasing mobility opportunities for students, staff and professional trainers enhances learning and methods of curriculum delivery. Mobility also adds to, and strengthens, the sharing of academic good practice and cultural internationalisation. For our partners, mobility is also important for personal development and enhanced employment prospects, encouraging a wider perspective from beneficiaries regarding employability as well as fostering respect for diversity and a capacity to deal with other cultures. In addition, mobility encourages cultural and linguistic adoption, thus underpinning and increasing co-operation between EU partners. As a consequence, mobility is a continuing priority for cooperation and internationalisation and partnership working within the EU and beyond.

Key Drivers

Future international developments will address key agenda drivers from local, regional and national priorities in support of the Lisbon Agenda (Improving Employment). As an example, some of the areas that might be addressed are: working with disadvantaged groups, improving learners’ employability, vocational education and training by implementing the priorities of the Copenhagen process, low levels of participation in adult learning, elements from the Scottish Government Concordat and new emerging green papers that will address employability and the local economy.

Host Partners

In order to ensure that mobility participants always have a positive experience both in the host country and in their country of origin on their return, we will continue to build on the success of our previous projects, with our host partners and employers, as well as the participants, to make sure we deliver a mobility experience that meets the aims and objectives of the project and is relevant to the participants training needs. It is fundamental that the work placements and visits are of a high quality and managed effectively. We therefore aim to continue working with our current and future partners on strengthening our working partnerships based on regular communication and discussion and develop stronger relationships that will make an even greater difference to the impact of our projects.

Countries in Partnership

Currently the countries we have partners in are France, Spain, Malta, Italy, Sweden, Ireland, Lithuania and Hungary. As a College we act as a Host country for learners from France, Spain, Malta, Sweden, Ireland, Lithuania and Hungary. Over the next three years we intend to increase our capacity as a hosting country and look for learners from Germany, Italy and Romania. We recognise this as an opportunity to develop our capacity building and strengthen our cooperation with other EU and non-EU markets.

Main Objectives

- Ensure accessibility to all regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age & disability
- Seek to deliver the highest quality provision across our mobility activity
- Validate the work or study period as part of the participants' learning
- Provide the participants with additional skills and experience within an EU Dimension
- Maximise the employment prospects of the participants, either in the UK or throughout Europe
- Improve career progression
- Promote a culture of, and commitment to, lifelong learning