

Erasmus Policy Statement

The University's International (EU and non-EU) Strategy is an integrated goal of "Manchester 2020: The Strategic Plan for The University of Manchester" which outlines our vision that "by 2020 The University of Manchester will be one of the top 25 research universities in the world" (www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/vision).

The University of Manchester has a strong international profile and is already a highly internationalised University, with 25% of its students and academic staff coming from outside the UK; 25% of its research publications co-authored with non-UK collaborators; and 250,000 alumni around the globe. The University will continue to build on this success and ensure that internationalisation is further embedded in our approach to research, teaching, the student experience, business engagement and social responsibility. In pursuit of this vision of a truly international institution, engagement with Europe and active participation in the new European programme 2014-2020 is seen as critical.

The University will prioritise the following areas of activity:

Research

In order to ensure that the University has an international reputation for world-leading research, it will engage in international research collaboration and partnership with leading international universities, research institutes wherever they may be within and outside the EU, to address global challenges, access global facilities, data and populations.

Teaching, Learning and the Student Experience

The University will harness the diverse cultures and nationalities across our campus and our networks within and beyond Europe to contribute to an international experience in Manchester for our students, scholars and staff. Those working and studying in the University will benefit from the diversity of their experience in Manchester. The University acknowledges the key contribution of mobile staff and students to the quality of this experience.

The University will work to ensure that the international dimensions of its degree programmes at first, second and third cycle are further strengthened. This will be achieved by providing students with access to courses and activities which address global questions, to ensure that students develop the skills necessary to shape them as global citizens and to enhance their employability.

The University will expand upon its provision of outstanding opportunities for all students, regardless of their background or location, to be exposed to new cultures, languages and experiences, through opportunities for studying, volunteering and working for a period outside the UK. This is primarily targeted at first cycle students. The University is committed, as part of its 2020 strategy, to an expansion in the number, and range, of both credit and non-credit bearing opportunities for students from all disciplines to spend a period abroad. It is further committed to the development of a scholarship programme to financially support students, where necessary, who would otherwise be unable to engage with these opportunities. The University will seek to build upon its success to date in the area of mobility and

considers active participation in the new European programme 2014-2020 as an important platform for the achievement of these student mobility goals.

To ensure the highest standards of research and of teaching, the University recognises the importance of continuing to enhance the skills and experience of academic staff. Opportunities for staff mobility, within and outside Europe, will remain an integral strand of staff development activities building upon the platform of the EU Programme 2014-2020.

Transnational Education

The University will continue to pursue the delivery of education and training through partnership and collaboration where there is a strong fit with its strategic ambitions. Building upon successful modes of international collaboration, the University acknowledges the key contribution that active participation in EU and international cooperation projects will make to the successful achievement of transnational education activities.

Country and partner selection

In support of “Manchester 2020” the University has prioritised certain countries/regions when assessing opportunities for mobility, partnership and collaboration in teaching, research and business outside the UK. The selection of partner institutions takes into consideration the reputation of the partner, established links between the institutions, academic compatibility in teaching or research as appropriate, destination country risk, student interest and whether the partner complements existing partnerships. Prioritised countries/regions include the countries of Europe, China, India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, U.S.A, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Gulf States, Israel, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Taiwan but this does not preclude activity being developed elsewhere.

The University’s Internationalisation Strategy focuses upon objectives with regard to teaching and learning, the student experience, research and social responsibility. The University recognises the valued contribution that cooperation projects can make to the various elements of this agenda.

Over the course of the new EU Programme the University intends to consider, via the International Strategy Group and other governance structures, the institution’s continued engagement with cooperation projects and how involvement in cooperation projects can be best utilised and supported in the pursuit of internationalisation. Informed by best practice developed under the previous Programme, the institution will consider how its strategic objectives can be successfully achieved via cooperation projects with partners within and outside Europe.

The University is committed to producing graduates distinguished by their intellectual capabilities, employability, leadership qualities and their ability and ambition to contribute to society. Our work to support fair access to students from low participation neighbourhoods and lower socio-economic groups will contribute to increasing the number of higher education graduates.

The Manchester 2020 strategic plan outlines our commitment to ensuring that our students are taught by highly motivated and skilful staff, who are leading scholars at the forefront of their disciplines. Staff will continue to be encouraged to develop innovation in teaching through undertaking opportunities for pedagogic development; in particular within the European and international higher education environment.

The University is committed to ensuring all students benefit from opportunities to acquire the core skills, knowledge and personal attributes necessary for employment and further study. The University acknowledges its role in preparing students by providing opportunities for work experience and study abroad. The University recognises that international mobility enhances the employability of its graduates in supporting the development of language skills, intercultural competence and an insight into international business and academic environments. The new European programme will underpin the platform from which to launch high quality opportunities for our students.

The University's Business Engagement strategy supports the development of strategic relationships with international business partner companies and SMEs help solve their and society's challenges through our research and knowledge exchange, which includes people exchange. It supports our employability objectives through placements and enterprise training.

Internally, the impact of our participation will be monitored, measured and evaluated through our annual operational priorities cycle together with progress against our institutional Key Performance Indicators. The impact of our commitment to the higher education experience of our students will be evident through the satisfaction ratings indicated by our students, as measured by the National Student Survey, and their employability after graduation as measured by the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Survey.