ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

University of Aberdeen – Erasmus+ 2020-27

Participation in Erasmus+

The University of Aberdeen intends to participate actively in Erasmus+ as part of the UK's reassociation to the Programme. Erasmus+ provides a stable, multi year framework for outgoing and incoming mobility that aligns with the University's long term ambitions for inclusion, internationalisation and global engagement, as set out in our Aberdeen 2040 strategy. The University has significant experience of delivering Erasmus mobility and cooperation activities, and this track record informs our readiness to re engage with the Programme.

Our core activity will centre on Key Action 1 (KA131 and KA171) mobility, namely student mobility for studies and traineeships, and staff mobility for teaching and training. Work is ongoing to examine the feasibility of incorporating blended mobility. These activities will be implemented through well established institutional processes that ensure transparent selection, inclusive guidance and consistent academic practice, drawing on procedures refined during previous Erasmus participation, as well as more recent participation in the UK's Turing Scheme.

In addition, the University will explore targeted participation in Key Action 2 and Key Action 3 where these activities add clear academic value, strengthen partnership development and support policy relevant cooperation. This wider engagement will enable the University to build on existing academic strengths, expand interdisciplinary collaboration and participate in projects that complement broader European educational objectives. These activities will commence following the UK's reassociation and will draw upon the structures and experience the University has maintained through its wider mobility provision.

Strategy, objectives and impact

Participation in Erasmus+ is closely aligned with the ambitions of Aberdeen 2040, particularly our commitments to be inclusive, international, sustainable and interdisciplinary, and will build on the University's established experience delivering international mobility. The Programme provides a reliable and structured framework through which the University can enhance the student experience, strengthen staff capability, broaden teaching and research partnerships, and further embed internationalisation at home. The University has extensive experience of delivering Erasmus mobility and partnership activity, and has maintained and developed this operational capacity throughout its participation in the UK's Turing Scheme since 2020. This combined experience provides a strong foundation for a well-managed and confident return to Erasmus+.

1. Enhance student learning, skills and employability.
Erasmus+ will broaden opportunities for students to gain academic, intercultural and linguistic experience in a range of European contexts, supporting the development of global awareness, confidence and discipline-specific insight. This aligns with the University's ambition to prepare graduates for a rapidly changing world.

2. Broaden access to international mobility opportunities.
Student demand for mobility remains high, but current national mobility funding reaches only a proportion of the outbound cohort. As a result, participation levels and continuation rates do not fully reflect underlying interest. Engagement in Erasmus+ would enable the University to support a broader range of students and stabilise mobility activity, strengthening our commitment to widening participation.

3. Strengthen staff development and teaching innovation.
Staff mobility for teaching and training contributes to pedagogical development, curriculum enhancement and the exchange of good practice across disciplines. This objective builds on longstanding patterns of academic engagement developed during earlier Erasmus cycles and aligns with Aberdeen 2040's international and innovative priorities.

4. Develop sustainable and high-quality international partnerships.
Erasmus+ provides structured mechanisms for building and maintaining academic relationships across Europe. Participation will deepen existing connections and support the development of new strategic partnerships that enhance curriculum design, mobility pathways and interdisciplinary collaboration. The University's established experience in

managing Erasmus and non-Erasmus partnerships offers a solid basis for maintaining balanced and resilient collaborations.

5. Promote an inclusive mobility environment that enables equitable participation.
Erasmus+ will help the University strengthen an environment in which students from all backgrounds can participate confidently in international opportunities. This includes ensuring clear information, reducing practical barriers, and embedding inclusive approaches across the mobility lifecycle. The Programme complements existing University commitments to widening participation and offers a framework through which inclusive practice can continue to evolve.

6. Advance sustainability and civic engagement.
Erasmus+ encourages environmentally responsible mobility and supports opportunities for active citizenship and community engagement. These priorities complement the University's wider sustainability commitments, including climate-positive goals, active travel infrastructure, low-carbon transport guidance and digital-first administrative practices, as outlined in the University's sustainability framework. This contributes to institutional priorities related to social responsibility and global citizenship.

7. Enhance institutional visibility and global engagement.
Targeted participation across Key Actions will help raise the University's international profile, strengthen collaboration networks and reinforce broader internationalisation objectives under Aberdeen 2040. Re-engagement with Erasmus+ will also help rebuild longstanding European partnerships and increase the University's visibility within established academic and mobility networks.

The expected impact of rejoining Erasmus+ is the re-establishment of a sustainable mobility framework for students and staff, expanded international collaboration opportunities and strengthened contribution to the European Education Area. Participation will enrich learning and teaching, support academic development, strengthen institutional partnerships and deepen intercultural engagement across campus.

Indicators

Progress will be monitored through realistic and measurable indicators, with each indicator aligned to its corresponding objective:

1. Enhance student learning, skills, and employability
Indicator: Evidence of increased student self-reported learning gains in intercultural skills, confidence, and academic development through post-mobility evaluations.

2. Broaden access to international mobility opportunities
Indicator: Year-on-year increases in participation from under-represented groups, monitored through internal demographic data.

3. Strengthen staff development and teaching innovation
Indicator: Annual increases in staff reporting positive professional development outcomes linked to teaching or training mobility.

4. Develop sustainable and high-quality international partnerships
Indicator: Maintenance or growth of active, academically suitable inter-institutional agreements demonstrating balanced exchanges and positive partner feedback.

5. Promote an inclusive mobility environment that enables equitable participation
Indicator: Increased early engagement with mobility information and guidance among students from under-represented groups.

6. Advance sustainability and civic engagement
Indicator: Uptake of sustainable travel options, and participation in civic or cultural engagement activities, as reported by outgoing and incoming students.

7. Enhance institutional visibility and global engagement
Indicator: Increased engagement from European partners, measured through growth in active collaborations, reciprocal mobility activity, or invitations to participate in partner-led events.

Indicators will be reviewed annually, and updated in line with institutional priorities and programme guidance.