

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The University of Oxford is firmly committed to delivering an outstanding education, carrying out world-leading research, making significant contributions to all levels of society, and attracting the best students and staff from around the world, regardless of nationality. In so doing, Oxford continues to build upon and strengthen its 900 year history as a highly influential and highly international university.

As a devolved institution, the University has many international strategies, developed independently in each of its colleges, academic divisions and departments, which operate with a significant degree of autonomy. The central University supports the development of its constituents' strategies, particularly in the fields of large research collaborations, industry connections, and the development of international mobility opportunities of various durations for students of all levels of study.

Oxford acknowledges that higher education and the development of knowledge is at a unique point in history where world-leading teaching and research must not and cannot happen in isolation. Cooperation with institutions worldwide, whether they are universities, governments, or industries, is instrumental to successfully pushing the boundaries of knowledge, developing impactful research, and educating effective world citizens. As a highly international institution with connections in all parts of the globe, Oxford chooses not to focus its strategies for international collaboration on institutions from particular geographic areas. Rather, the University and its constituent departments and colleges appreciate that institutions globally offer very different opportunities and benefit from very different strengths. As such, we strive to build desired partnerships with institutions which offer opportunities of proven quality and potential in various fields.

Oxford also understands that student and staff mobility is an important factor in building and deepening partnerships and gaining perspective on other approaches to knowledge. To this end, the University is keen to develop and promote further international mobility opportunities for its students of all cycles. This will serve to develop in our students a more rounded perspective on their academic studies, situate our students to succeed in a highly international economy, and deepen our interaction with other world-leading institutions of education and research. Ever-conscious of maintaining equal access to all, regardless of class or creed, Oxford strives to increase international opportunities that have funding attached, as well as develop additional resources to support such initiatives, so as to not create a financial burden for anyone who wishes to benefit from them. Since it is important that Oxford students spend a significant portion of their time at the University during the academic year to benefit from the University's teaching and research offerings, the majority of Oxford's international mobility opportunities have been in the form of summer programmes, such as summer schools and internships, which has led to a central strategy that focuses on expanding such models. Several departments are involved in and benefit from in-term international mobility opportunities, such as optional and compulsory term or year abroad models, which has encouraged the University to look toward expanding the number of such opportunities.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The University of Oxford does not currently have intentions to implement cooperative projects such as those for the purposes of teaching and training as described in the 2014-2020 EU programme for education, training, youth and sport (the Programme).

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

With 42% of its staff and 38% of its students coming from countries outside the UK, and with many research and mobility partners around the world, Oxford is committed to policies of institutional internationalisation and modernisation, whereby it will continue to produce impactful and world-leading research, and attract some of the world's brightest individuals and educate them to be critically- and culturally-minded. In line with the five priorities of the Modernisation Agenda, the Programme will continue to help ensure that Oxford meets these goals.

Increasing attainment to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs: through increasing collaborative opportunities and funding for research and mobility, the Programme will continue to ensure that the University successfully educates and graduates world-class researchers and other critically- and culturally-minded individuals who will actively and positively contribute to the knowledge economy that is so central to the future prosperity of Europe.

Improving the quality and relevance of higher education: Oxford understands that higher education cannot undertake teaching and research in isolation, and must develop with the world around it. With international collaborative partnerships in research and teaching made possible through the Programme historically and in the future, the University will be able to learn from and work with staff and students with varied perspectives and expertise to ensure that it continues to adapt with the ever-changing world, thereby allowing the teaching it provides and the research it develops to be always relevant and of high quality.

Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation: mobility and cross-border cooperation undertaken with the support of the Programme will continue to enable our institution and staff to learn from varied approaches to and perspectives on knowledge, and allow them to benefit from technologies, expertise, and facilities found elsewhere, effectively strengthening the quality of research and teaching provided.

Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development: the Programme has historically and will continue to enable Oxford's staff and students to continue to collaborate with universities, governments, and industry domestically and abroad to ensure that teaching and research are tailored to offer significant and positive impact on the development of various regions.

Improving governance and funding: Oxford welcomes the opportunity to continue to develop and improve its governance models, practices and policies through interaction with like-minded institutions initiated through the Programme. Such programme-driven partnerships will also enable our students and researchers to develop more opportunities to secure joint funding for research and mobility purposes.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)