

Erasmus Policy Statement

For Regent's University London (RUL), the international strategy is not simply about student recruitment, it is an integral part of instruction and developing a global perspective. Internationalisation permeates everything at Regent's, from recruitment, to enhancing the student experience and partnership activity with other institutions. It is embedded in our programmes with many incorporating foreign language learning and cross-cultural studies as well as study abroad opportunities which are promoted through academic and support staff and create an awareness of such opportunities.

RUL's International Strategy recognises that Europe is an important market for higher mobility. The key vision of the strategy is for Regent's to further strengthen its role in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by developing new partnerships with universities in Eastern Europe and encouraging greater mobility of students and staff between RUL, European HEIs public bodies and enterprises.

At the heart of Regent's strategy is the work overseen by the University's International Partnerships Office (IPO). The team manages a network of over 150 partners dotted around the globe. Regent's unique approach recognises that while institutions compete internationally, there is much to be gained through active collaboration.

The University has a thorough procedure in place for identifying, selecting and monitoring partnerships. Full details of the process and supporting documentation can be found in the International Partnerships Strategy and Policy which is available to all staff (and students).

The University has strong co-operations in (Western) Europe and North America. The short to medium priority for the future is to develop co-operations in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. As outlined in our partnerships strategy and now possible as we have gained TDAPs, a key strategic priority is to explore further opportunities for collaboration including multi-campus study, dual qualifications and joint research-consultancy projects.

An important element of the strategy is ensuring a diverse student body with no single nationality over-represented. With over 130 different countries represented in the student body (15% UK, 35% continental Europe and 50% from the rest of the world); cultural diversity is what Regent's students expect and what the recruitment team is focused on delivering.

Extensive instruction is provided in ten economically important languages and cultures. Currently around 35% of students must acquire a new language and study for two semesters in a location in which it is used. Our Vision 2020 strategy aims to have 50% of the student body engaged with studying abroad with study abroad and language acquisition mandatory for 40% of students.

Regent's international network is designed to enhance the student experience. Exchange programmes enable the University to provide a truly international education. They bring new ideas into the University benefiting all staff and students.

The centrepiece of Regent's international activity is the annual Partners' Conference with the University becoming a networking hub for all partner institutions. The event strengthens the University's relationship with its partners and helps to build a network rather than simply a bilateral relationship with individual institutions. The Conference programme features experts in the field of international higher education, who deliver a series of keynote addresses. This event is an initiative which includes all aspects of the institution with senior academics delivering presentations and bringing together people with shared connections to discuss working collaboratively to mutual benefit. Participation in the Conference has grown year on year and feedback received illustrates how institutions value this opportunity to network and learn from each other.

Post Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAPs), the University is exploring collaborative projects such as dual and joint degrees. In doing so, we consider both academic and non-academic objectives when assessing any new collaborative projects with international partners in line with the University's mission and values. A framework for evaluating approving and reviewing such arrangements is currently being developed in the light of gaining University status in 2013.

Regent's University London's international strategy, underpinned by the institution's commitment to its partner institutions, is championed by the leadership team, understood across the University, valued by students and is integral to the work we do in developing active global citizens. In view of our newly gained University status and the revised QAA Code of Practice "Chapter B10: Managing higher education provision with others", Regent's University London is currently reviewing and updating its International Strategy and Policy documents.

Since gaining TDAPs and University status, a number of new possibilities and opportunities have open up to RUL. An international taskforce to research, identify and implement new opportunities is currently being set-up within the University with a cross-section of key colleagues (including both academic and central services staff) involved. This working party has been tasked with developing the University's handbook for Transnational Education (TNE) which is due to be in place by May 2014.

Participation in EU and non-EU cooperation projects already had a direct impact on the modernisation of Regent's University. Regent's has always sought to develop close links with its partnership network to learn from each other and share best practices in teaching, learning, research and consultancy as well as in the development of excellent support services.

The jobs of the future will demand higher qualifications and Mobility Programmes are key to increasing the linguistic, cultural and subject level knowledge of our students and staff and at promoting the development of joint scholarly publications.

Greater understanding and novel insights arise when working collaboratively with universities around the world. Having gained TDAP and University title, Regent's University London (Formerly Regent's College London) is now putting extra resources into developing multidisciplinary research centres working closely with faculty overseas to support PhD and Doctoral students – this includes

promoting the mobility of researchers across Europe and worldwide. Through the development of joint curricular as well as the joint supervision of thesis the quality of higher education is substantially improved and this in turn will increase attainment levels providing the graduates and researcher Europe needs. Regent's University is committed to supporting the EU 2020 education target to increase the share of young people with higher education qualifications and with the recent appointment of an Outreach Manager as well as a substantial increase in scholarships funding is hoping to reach out to those students from disadvantaged backgrounds who otherwise would not be able to enrol in a higher education degree and hence increasing accessibility. Our participation in the new Erasmus for All programme will allow us to combine EU funding with our own scholarships to encourage students (and staff) to experience education/work abroad.

Erasmus for all also help us to strengthen interactions with enterprises which is vital in informing the academic curriculum and to develop entrepreneurial spirit and innovation skills as well as providing students with early career opportunities. We are currently redesigning our BA in Global Management to include 1 full year of placement in industry which will be fully recognised and integrated into the programme.

Through participation in Erasmus for All there are many opportunities for HEIs and enterprises to work in partnership to increase and diversify additional sources of funding. This is vital particularly in times of economic crisis and scarce public funds.

Lessons arising from working together with partner institutions in international projects and through the broad dissemination of the project results can be mainstreamed into the university development processes and guide policy on the development of governance.