



Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-20

Liverpool John Moores University is a modern civic university delivering solutions to the challenges of the 21st century. It embraces internationalism and aims to be recognised globally for its work in wealth creation, social well-being, culture and the arts. In further developing this international profile and reputation, the University's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan places particular emphasis upon developing partnerships of mutual benefit with international universities, funding bodies and other private and public organisations.

The University's strategic plan seeks to develop long lasting, substantive, relationships with partner institutions that share a similar ethos with LJMU (for both HEIs and enterprises). This is done in a structured way. Partnerships are initially developed by academic Schools, Research Centres and Research Institutes based on developing / enhancing mutually beneficial teaching and research collaborations in specific areas; enabling Schools to optimise their own networks and ensure the quality of the partnership. Oversight and management of such partnerships is provided at University level so as to ensure fit with the University's strategic objectives and compliance with appropriate regulatory measures.

Considerations as regards mobility include language provision, the ability to accommodate students in terms of mutual fit with academic programmes, and, overall, whether the collaboration will be truly reciprocal in offering a mutually beneficial and high quality learning experience for both parties. Where a mobility partnership is considered, a preparatory visit to the prospective host(s) is undertaken. This pays particular attention to the quality of the teaching and research, as appropriate. A staff only inter-institutional mobility agreement often initially follows in order to cement and strengthen partnerships and student mobility may be added subsequently, subject to confirmation that all the necessary arrangements are in place. Agreements are approved by the School director and ratified by the Erasmus coordinator to ensure fit with School and institutional strategies. Institutional level European and non-European collaborative partnerships are also agreed where they serve LJMU's strategic objectives, for example, globalisation and knowledge transfer.

Historically, LJMU Erasmus mobility has been concentrated on a fairly small number of member states and EFTA-EEA countries. In developing our new International Strategy, the University plans to actively seek opportunities for wider international mobility, regardless of geographical location. We are therefore keen to take advantage of the opportunity as afforded by the new Programme (where the considerations detailed in a) above allow). In the ethos of Erasmus for All, we will strive to make Erasmus mobility opportunities available to all students and teachers in all subject areas.

The objective of the University is to increase the mobility of staff and students across all three cycles. To date, Erasmus student mobility at LJMU has been focused on the first (Bachelor) cycle. However, provision of international mobility for postgraduate candidates (2nd and 3rd cycle) is of increasing importance to the university and forms part of our strategic objectives. LJMU recognises the potentially valuable scholarly opportunities afforded to Masters and Doctoral students through second (Masters) and third (Doctoral) cycle Erasmus mobility. International collaboration via partnerships for research and scholarship forms an important element of our strategic objectives with staff and postgraduate student mobility forming a key means of achieving our aims, as well as serving to further promote the University's research profile. LJMU is therefore seeking to develop significant opportunities for postgraduate mobility including an integrated mobility period for Masters students. This will further serve as a basis for the development of joint degrees (via Erasmus Mundus) and the pursuit of academic excellence.

As an example, two new postgraduate research degree models (applying across all disciplines) have been developed in 2013 to support international partnerships.

We aim to significantly expand staff mobility opportunities, building on our positive experiences gained through mobility programmes such as Marie Curie. Such staff exchanges are a vital element in both building and sustaining substantive partnerships with HEIs and enterprises. Entrepreneurship forms an important part of our academic programmes at 1st, 2nd cycle and increasingly at 3rd cycle and will be embedded in what we do.

LJMU's Strategic Plan seeks to develop and implement long-lasting strategic partnerships of mutual benefit with international HEIs, enterprises and other private and public organisations. Cooperation Projects in teaching and training will be integral to successfully delivering the strategy. LJMU's formal Committee (the External Engagement and Research & Scholarship Committees) and organisational structure (including the International, Student Registry and Research and Innovation offices) will ensure delivery through the involvement of all key stakeholders.

In particular, networks and expertise from LJMU's Business Gateway and Centre for Entrepreneurship will create and sustain Knowledge alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises. The University will actively promote opportunities and encourage participation in projects by entrepreneurs and small businesses in partnership with HE. We will continue to work with our local authorities via Eurocities (Liverpool is currently Co-Chair of the Entrepreneurship and SME Working Group).

We will implement projects that build on current EU partnerships and networks that the University is actively engaged in (e.g. DG MARE's Atlantic Forum, European Innovation Partnerships such as the Healthy and Active Ageing EIP). LJMU will actively seek involvement in other EIPs, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and we will further use these links to create new opportunities to collaborate in the field of the EU Modernisation Agenda for H.E.

As a key part of our strategic plan, LJMU plans a significant increase in International Cooperation and engagement; with partners across the world. This programme affords opportunities to develop and grow these relationships to meet the shared goals with partners. A University-wide consultation is underway to allow staff to contribute towards developing our priorities for engaging with third party countries.

Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs: Our graduates need the intra-cultural skills acquired via Erasmus in order to compete successfully for employment opportunities and to provide the skills required by employers. These needs affect an increasingly broad cross section of society entering LJMU via widening access, in which we seek to continually improve educational outcomes by developing clear progression routes, reduce drop out and ultimately train more researchers. At LJMU we see mobility opportunities as a key part of our outreach programme into schools and the new University Technical Colleges by motivating and inspiring prospective students as to the benefits that HE can provide, especially those from less traditional backgrounds. We provide advice and targeted financial support to disadvantaged students and our success is reflected in our retention rates and the high percentage of our graduates who are from non-traditional and disadvantaged backgrounds.

LJMU is committed to improving the quality and relevance of HE. Specific actions to address the needs of individuals and the labour market identified in the current Strategic Plan (2012-17) include "ensuring curricula are informed by current and planned future employment/industry developments", "development of employability and entrepreneurial skills as a core part of the student's experience" and "programmes for the development and improvement of academic support within faculties." At the core of LJMU's taught programmes lies the involvement of enterprises to inform the curriculum so as to ensure employer relevance of the skills development by students.

Strengthening quality through mobility and cross border cooperation: LJMU will embrace the European and International mobility and cooperation opportunities afforded by the new Programme. It will provide more opportunities for students and staff to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, encouraging cross border cooperation and boosting HE performance.

Linking HE, research and business for excellence and regional development: LJMU is viewed by industry, commerce, and the public and not-for-profit sectors as part of a strong knowledge economy. We are actively engaged in international, european, national and regional knowledge exchange programmes with both SMEs and larger partners and LJMU is a lead organisation in the development of the local growth plan for the Liverpool City Region. We will continue to engage with these sectors on a range of economic and social projects based firmly on innovative and value-adding KE activities at all levels.

LJMU is committed to improving governance so that funding is used efficiently, thereby optimising investment in quality education to match labour market needs. We seek to adopt best practice in the sector, for example EFQM and our policies and procedures are updated on a regular basis.

Signature of the legal representative of the Institution: 

Professor Nigel Weatherill DSc, FREng, FRSA
Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive
Liverpool John Moores University

Place: LIVERPOOL

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(updated 25th September 2014)