

## **Background**

Over the past 7 years we have moved from an Institute of Higher Education to a University College and finally achieving full University status in February 2013. This has resulted in a new senior management structure with the goal of further embedding and incorporating Internationalisation into the University's strategy. The current Strategic Plan <http://goo.gl/tsLE7> expires this year and is in the process of being reviewed. Internationalisation is one of the 5 key objectives within the current strategy and is mainly related to staff mobility, partnerships, recruitment and language. The draft Internationalisation Strategy <http://www.newman.ac.uk/international/1076> (still under consultation) references curriculum, mobility, research, student experience, partnerships and the broader internationalisation agenda. The long term goal of the internationalisation strategy is that Internationalisation will be embedded in unit strategies and become a normal part of planning, goal setting and KPIs. The strategy encompasses both EU and non-EU countries and does not differentiate between them. We have a wide range of partnerships across the EU and worldwide which have grown organically and the current partnerships are undergoing a review. In future a much more strategic approach will be taken when entering into new partnerships.

New partnerships that are now entered into are routed via the Collaborative Strategy Committee and assessed on a range of criteria e.g. with regards to the type of partnership, the sustainability, curriculum match, opportunities for research, staff and student mobility, the ethos and mission (as Newman is a Catholic University), language of delivery. This ensures a steer from senior management with regards to engaging in sustainable partnerships. Newman University is open to working with partners across the EU and non-partner countries. Our current EU partners include France, Spain, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Germany. Outside of the EU we have partners the USA, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan with potential partners in China, Indonesia, Uganda and Tanzania.

## **Student Mobility**

Our target group for student mobility are our first cycle students. Most of our students undertake work placements (traineeships) due to a lack of language skills and having to source partners delivering in English. Some areas of our subject areas curriculum are more flexible than others. Many of our degrees with professional recognition e.g. Teacher Education, Psychology are not able to release students for study placements, but we are able to support them on work placements. Other students are able to take a full semester overseas and our curriculum has been designed to facilitate a study period in Semester 2 of Year 2. A small number of students have also taken intercalation years between years 2 and 3 or Erasmus study in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. We have a higher than average number of students who are the first in the family to progress to HE and supporting them in accessing the Erasmus funding and other overseas opportunities is a priority across the institution. We also encourage part time students to access all mobility opportunities. Our student and staff mobility targets are reflected in the institutional strategy document.

## **Staff Mobility**

With regards to staff mobility we actively promote opportunities for Professional and Support Staff, not only Academic staff to participate in Erasmus visits. Staff submit a proposal for an

Erasmus visit and a panel meets to discuss and allocate funding. Priority is given to those who have not had the opportunity before. This is in order to enable as many staff members as possible the opportunity of learning about a different culture, sharing best practice with colleagues from across Europe, building relationships with our partners and enriching the university's curricula and environment.

Proposals for development of double/joint degrees etc would first be proposed at the Collaborative Strategy Committee (CSC) where it would be discussed and a decision taken as to whether to proceed. A small number of proposals have been offered to CSC, mainly from existing partners whom we have co-operated with on Intensive Programmes. We prefer to work with existing partners where a relationship and trust has already been built on previous smaller scale projects.

*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 strategy.*

The strategy for the organisation and implementation of cooperation projects in teaching and training under Erasmus follows the same route as any other collaborative partnership - via CSC.

Proposals are considered by the committee for academic merit, sustainability and institutional capacity. The decision making process on whether or not to proceed with a joint project is the capacity of the department leading the project, sustainability, academic merit and the institutional strategy.