

## ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

### EUROPEAN POLICY STATEMENT 2014

The University of Worcester international strategy operates through focused strategic partnerships and overseas recruitment and through ensuring that the education of its students is enriched through experiences which have an international dimension. The university is engaged in developing an international perspective to its curriculum so that University of Worcester graduates will understand the international, cultural, professional and academic contexts of their discipline. Graduates will understand global issues and the requirement to participate in society as a global citizen. They will be able to work with others across different contexts, cultures and countries.

The university will expand the number of strategic partnerships it has with international organisations that share its ambitions, mission and values, to increase international recruitment and international exchange opportunities for students and staff. The university will ensure that its international partnerships are mutually beneficial and sustainable and that it is an innovative and reliable partner. The university is seeking to diversify its staff base to include well qualified staff from a range of cultures and backgrounds who will contribute to international developments through teaching, research and knowledge exchange.

The university selects its partners strategically; some are progression partnerships which ensure a flow of well qualified students into UW courses. Characteristically, these would be selected in line with the international recruitment strategy and would be first cycle students from Asia who have completed a B Tec or HND qualification progressing onto a top up year at University of Worcester to complete a Bachelor's degree. Worcester Business School also has a progression agreement where second cycle students who have completed a PG Diploma equivalent come onto the final third of a UW MBA.

Exchange partners within Europe are selected with a view to achieving a diverse range of partners from Scandinavia, through Central Europe to Eastern Europe. As the University of Worcester does not offer degree programmes in Modern Foreign languages, partners are chosen which can offer courses taught in English. However, so that our students are not disadvantaged socially, the Language Centre offers a small range of in house credit bearing MFL modules and a full range of online MFL modules. Typically, members of academic staff identify synergies with partner institutes at conferences or through research networks. They then research the potential partner through OM and TM funding to establish compatibility

before embarking on the partnership. The objective is to enhance the students' learning experience by a flexible approach to module matching and a diverse range of partners in terms of size, setting and geographical spread. UW is very responsive to requests from partners for second cycle exchanges, though the nature of our taught degrees has so far meant that we have not yet reciprocated. Outside Europe, University of Worcester has selected partners in English speaking countries such as US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand but is developing partnerships in China, India and Russia with a view to offering a broader range of experience to staff and students.

A third model of partnership is one where an institution has been identified as a knowledge alliance with a particularly close match in terms of ambitions, mission and values. An example of this is with the University of Minnesota Duluth which runs an integrated Year Abroad at Worcester. UMD students and UW students learn alongside each other in modules which may be taught by UMD or UW lecturers, resulting in a flow of staff between the two institutions. This model is proving to be highly sustainable and mutually beneficial and will be transferable to other partners in time.

In terms of short cycles, UW is offering credit bearing summer schools open to all partner institutions which gives an opportunity for a stimulating international experience for disadvantaged students who may not be eligible for a full semester's mobility. We are also seeking opportunities within Europe and without for short term tutor led study tours. The Institute of Sport and Exercise Science participates in two IP programmes and has been particularly active in promoting mobility for students with physical disabilities. Worcester Business School has worked with partners in a consortium led by the University of Leuven to develop a Double Degree and has a longstanding bilateral Double Degree arrangement with Halmstad University. The Institute of Sport and Exercise Science is developing a joint Masters degree with the Lithuanian Sports University. A capacity building project is underway to offer a progression arrangement at Masters level with Perm State National Research University where Russian students would progress to the second year of a differentiated Masters in Social Work at PSNRU after completing a Diploma in Social Work at UW.