

Erasmus Policy Statement

De Montfort University's International Strategy (2018-2023), Global Instinct has a stated mission to help build active global citizens – students, graduates and staff who embrace international engagement with individuals, institutions and business globally.

Our student mobility programme, #DMUglobal epitomises our international approach, and following the Brexit vote, the University has demonstrated a stronger commitment to engaging with Europe and the wider world. Our international activity informs all aspects of study, research, work and life at DMU, and we are committed to ensuring every student, staff member and alumnus can become a life-long active global citizen.

Our Erasmus Policy Statement below sets out our institutional strategy and objectives in relation to the Charter, through the following thematic areas:

Global students

We aim to offer our students the opportunity to access international experiences overseas, as well as on our campus here in the heart of Leicester. Through our Erasmus+ and #DMUglobal activity every student will be offered an international experience as part of their degree, at all levels of study. We aim to increase the numbers of students participating on Erasmus+ mobilities, alongside our shorter-term international experiences through #DMUglobal.

We aspire to:

- Ensure equality of opportunity, by offering extra financial support to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and those most in need, so that they can access international experiences through the Erasmus+ programme and #DMUglobal. We aim to increase the number and percentage of students from Widening Participation backgrounds participating in exchange programme such as Erasmus+ where they are traditionally underrepresented.
- Support students with disabilities to access international opportunities, offering practical and financial support to help them overcome barriers. Working with our exchange partners we are experienced in supporting students with disabilities, and aim to develop more inclusive policies and support structures to facilitate this further.
- Develop flexible degree programmes and enhance recognition of student exchange, recording all achievements and experiences as part of the student degree and HEAR. In addition, we aim to develop our curriculum to better support student exchange, improving credit transfer and recognition, and diversifying semester and full year study options.
- Increase awareness of international opportunities available through Erasmus+ and #DMUglobal, promoting mobility opportunities to prospective and current students at open days, inductions, and study abroad fairs throughout the student lifecycle.
- Improve the language skills and intercultural awareness of our students, giving them the opportunity to study a range of European and world languages and campus, to prepare them for study or work overseas.
- Create an international campus, whereby our diverse student population from more than 130 nations feels valued and celebrated. Through the integration and support of our incoming

Erasmus+ students we aim to enrich the campus and integrate the students through a range of cultural activities and events.

Global staff

We are committed to supporting the development of our academic and professional services staff at DMU, ensuring they have equal access to international professional development opportunities that will enable them to operate successfully in a global environment. We believe that staff mobility and internationalisation is more than a tool for supporting student exchange, and plays a central role in exchanging knowledge and ideas, enhancing research collaboration and developing wider cooperation with our partners.

We aspire to:

- Offer both academic and professional services staff an opportunity to apply for and participate in teaching or training mobility that aligns with the institution's Erasmus+ and wider international objectives and targets.
- Foster and develop academic and research links as a core foundation for the basis of new partnerships that value teaching, learning and research.
- Build the competencies of our staff through a range of training opportunities, supported in part by Erasmus+ funding to enable them to learn from peers globally and share knowledge on a range of international topics.

Professional experiences

We aim to provide a significant number of our undergraduate and postgraduate taught students the opportunity of a professional experience with a distinct international element. Every DMU student deserves the opportunity of a rewarding career they work for and that is right for them.

Through a combination of our #DMUworks professional experiences and Erasmus+ traineeships supported by Erasmus funding we are committed to integrated international opportunities into our careers and employability offer to ensure that our students can be part of a global workforce and own an international mind-set, regardless of their background.

We aspire to:

- Encourage all our students to become global employees and leaders, offering support and direction with international placement and job applications.
- Inspire every student to apply for a professional experience with a distinct international element, whether that is an Erasmus+ traineeship, work placement outside of Europe or a summer internship overseas.
- Cultivate and foster relationships with a wide range of employers in Europe and beyond, to make them aware of DMU students' potential and to facilitate work-based opportunities

Partnerships with substance

We aim to establish a network of partner universities across Europe and the world, with shared visions and values that will allow us to collaborate in teaching, learning and research for the benefit our students and staff. The urgent need for effective global connection means our ideal international partners should understand and embrace our ethos and goals.

Every partnership will be built on a shared commitment to quality, interest in growth and development, and a focus on making a measurable difference. Working with universities on shared academic topics, we will expand staff and student mobility and internationalisation, and increase the range and diversity of our partnerships.

Our global partnerships strategy will identify those organisations best placed to build mutually beneficial relationships that heighten our reputation and develop our expertise. We will continue to develop international collaborations in teaching and research, offer students relevant, valuable employment experience, and seek to diversify our income sources. We will widen our collaboration with existing partners by bringing together recruitment, exchange programmes, research and complementary activities.

We aspire to:

- Develop long-term reciprocal relationships with universities and organisations we know and trust, in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors
- Increase the number of student and staff mobility opportunities offered to enhance learning, develop research and foster greater understanding in Europe and beyond
- Construct streamlined, agile and effective approaches to partnership development that facilitate the exchange of people and ideas