

Middlesex University's Erasmus Policy Statement (2014-2020)

Middlesex has been developing its network of European partners since its first European joint degree with universities in France and Germany in 1971. Middlesex currently holds 100 ERASMUS agreements for staff and student mobility. This includes at least one partner in every ERASMUS participating country. The University also has 30 student exchange agreements with partners across the world, including partners in Australia, China, India, South Korea, USA and others. These partnerships match our programme requirements, meet our quality criteria, and provide a range of destinations to meet our students' ambitions and recognise the global character of modern higher education.

The majority of student mobility at Middlesex is undertaken as undergraduate study or work placement. Outward first cycle student mobility is an option in the second year of three year programmes or the third year of four year programmes. While a period abroad is a compulsory element of some of our programmes - such as Business with Spanish or Mandarin or European Nursing - mobility is also an option for Middlesex students on nearly all the programmes taught at the University.

Students may spend, depending on the programme, either half or the whole of the second year abroad, meeting the learning outcomes of their degree through the courses they choose at the partner of their choice. Additionally, a growing number of new programmes include in their curricula an optional extra year that allows students to either work or study abroad, or a combination of both. Through the variety and flexibility of these curriculum options, the University aims to maximise our students' options for studying and working abroad and hence ensure we continue to build our first cycle student mobility numbers. The importance given to helping our students to fully develop their employability skills means that the University expects to see an increase in the number of students taking up work placements abroad in particular.

The University's focus on developing internationally recognised research is also expected to lead to a growth in the numbers of students studying abroad at second and third cycles over the next period. In particular, all doctoral students are made aware of the possibility of conducting a period of their research at one of our partner universities and the University will see this as a priority in the future to enhance the international character of our research training.

ERASMUS staff mobility is encouraged in all the University Schools. Visits are prioritised which directly support the student exchange programme, or contribute in other ways to enhancing the University's cooperation with its ERASMUS partners, or complement the University's strong commitment to European cooperation in higher education. ERASMUS staff visits also contribute to the professional development of both our teaching and non-teaching staff.

Middlesex University has participated in joint degrees in Europe since 1971, and is currently running joint degrees with universities in several countries including Hungary, Egypt and Serbia, as well as working with colleges and business partners across Europe to develop and run degree programmes in a wide range of subjects. The development of joint degrees is an established part of the University's internationalisation strategy, subject to compliance with business development and strict quality assurance procedures. All joint degrees are subject to the University's regulations, as well as those of our partners.

The University participates in international cooperation projects where appropriate within the overall internationalisation strategy to maintain an international perspective across the University, and develop synergy between our own current international reach and the aims and the priorities of the projects. Through participation in TEMPUS and other external cooperation projects, Middlesex gains considerable benefits from partnering with local institutions and establishing contacts for future cooperation. Groups of students from the University have taken part in a number of ERASMUS funded Intensive Programmes and individual staff and departments have participated in a wide range of TEMPUS and COMENIUS projects.

A number of TEMPUS projects in which the University has been involved have supported infrastructural and technical development in the partner countries, and have strongly supported the Modernisation Agenda in those countries. This benefits Middlesex University in encouraging reflection on our own modernisation agenda, especially in connection with the implementation of European objectives in higher education and research, and in addition enables us to participate in the discussion and development of best practice in a number of aspects of University life. Of particular interest has been the development of quality assurance platforms and the development of integrated administrative systems. Other projects have been concerned with curriculum development and the development of learning outcomes in all cycles and the support of students in professional practice environments.

The participation of Middlesex University in the Programme will continue to be an integral part of the University's strategic development at the forefront of socially and economically relevant, high quality, research led higher education. The University has extensive engagement in internationalised programmes, with both incoming and outgoing mobility, and will maintain and develop opportunities for the mobility of students and staff within the Programme to increase the employability of graduates and encourage cooperative research and practice engagement with partner universities and industries across Europe. The mobility of staff and students will contribute not only to the cultural and intellectual development of the participants, but through the sharing of

experiences and the extended personal and academic contacts, contribute to enhancing mutual understanding and quality in higher education across Europe.

As a regional leader in North London in developing the interface between higher education and business, social enterprise, research and community life, the University will encourage cross-border knowledge exchange through educational, social and enterprise partnerships, including local, regional and cross-border partners. Through such partnerships, the University will encourage and develop the engagement of local and regional stakeholders in its governance and advisory bodies, and seek to maximise effective use of funding from enterprise, national and trans-national funding agencies for positive impact and the mutual benefit of the knowledge society within Europe.

Middlesex University's Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020 was awarded on 6th December 2013