

Bournemouth University Erasmus+ Policy Statement

Strategic Commitment

The Bournemouth University (BU) Strategic Plan BU2025 was launched in the summer of 2018 and is the next step in BU's development, building on our success to date. BU's vision is to be recognised world-wide as a leading university for inspiring learning, advancing knowledge and enriching society. We believe that we can do this best by bringing together research, education and practice to create something that is greater than the sum of its parts. Each element informs and improves the others. We call this Fusion. What we learn through our research influences our curriculum and is passed on to industry through engagement with practice. What we learn from working with industry gives us new ideas for research and helps us design and deliver courses that keep our students at the cutting edge of their chosen professions. And what we learn from delivering world-class education helps improve our research and practice. It is our aim to inspire learning, for our students and staff, and in our wider communities; advance knowledge in practice and the professions and our academic areas; and enrich society through education, the impact of our research and our contribution to global challenges.

Internationalisation is integrated and embedded across BU2025 and includes specific commitments to:

- Enhance and embed a global outlook in all our staff and students through our Fusion learning approach, programmes and co-curricular and extra-curricular offer.
- Make BU a destination of choice for international students, staff and visiting scholars by significantly increasing the services and support we provide.
- Make BU a welcoming environment for international students and staff and support their integration.
- Grow internationally excellent and world-leading research.
- Create a worldwide network of academic peer organisations and international partnerships that share our vision and passion for Fusion learning approaches and work with them to advance knowledge, build our global outlook, develop our impact and grow worldwide recognition of BU.
- Support staff to engage in citizenship internally and externally, in our regional, national and international communities.
- Support staff from all parts of BU to work collaboratively outside their department or service, including outside BU to build our connected and resilient community and enhance our worldwide reputation.

Our comprehensive approach towards the internationalisation of BU has enabled us to widen our reach and deepen our impact, through a series of innovative programmes of work which have been shaped and delivered by a range of partners across the globe, and underpinned by student and staff mobility. These projects include the Global Festivals of Learning, which for the first time in 2018, we undertook in Europe, and also the sector leading Global Talent Programme. These projects have been recognised by the European Association of International Education in September 2018 by receiving the 'Institutional Award for Innovation in Internationalisation'.

It is our ambition, as part of BU2025 to build upon our success to date, and continue to champion and embed the internationalisation of our staff and student body through the fusion of education, research and practice.

Approach to partnership and mobility developments

Our partnership and mobility ambitions are supported by two dedicated teams who work closely together, and in collaboration with international recruitment, student services, and Faculty colleagues and teams.

Partnerships with like-minded institutions that contribute to the Fusion of education, research and practice are an essential component for BU to be internationally connected, building our research capacity and increasing our impact on society worldwide by contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as set out in our vision BU2025. Working within the context of BU's four new Strategic Investment Areas provides a framework for international partnership development in new directions, with research outputs and societal impact as measurable outcomes. As we are launching BU2025 the following regions will be priorities for partnership development, with the potential for these to be expanded as we develop the strategy further: Europe, North and South America, and Asia.

Partners are chosen according to the academic compatibility between BU and the partner to maximise the potential for research collaboration and student and staff exchange, as well as compatibility of strategic vision. Therefore, they need to align with BU's Strategic Investment Areas and for the potential of the partnership to make a positive contribution to the reputation and standing of the University. BU chooses partners that have credibility and experience related to the academic level of collaboration sought. Partnership arrangements that contribute to student diversification and an internationalised experience on campus as well as other activities linked to research and practice will be developed, especially where they have the potential to also contribute to the research agenda in the short to medium term. BU does not currently offer double or joint degrees, but will consider establishing joint degrees in the future.

At BU we continue our mission to embed and integrate internationalisation across the University, promote student mobility and positively impact the student experience and enhance their employability outcomes. We aim to increase the variety and enhance the quality of opportunities offered and delivered to all BU students and academic and professional staff. The offered activities are strategically aligned to developing global outlook of both students and staff. The set of activities include study and work abroad short-term and longer-term, individual and cohort mobility activities world-wide. Staff mobility activities are aligned to strategic partnership development priorities and aim to develop staff in research, education and professional practice. The activities also contribute to effective management of current partnerships and student outward mobility streams.

We are flexible in leadership, giving our staff the freedom to come up with new ways of thinking and supporting them in delivering new solutions – whether it is a way of improving our curriculum, an exciting new direction for research or a business insight that can help the companies we work with to retain a competitive edge. We work without barriers, collaborating and sharing with each other to deliver world-leading, life-changing research that we are passionate about. Indeed, many of our projects involve academics from different faculties working together and we place a lot of emphasis on developing processes, structures and learning spaces that make it easier to work together.

We aim to actively promote the benefits of student and staff outward and inward mobility at BU, regionally, nationally and internationally. Outward mobility opportunities and benefits are actively promoted during recruitment events (e.g. Open Days), to current students and staff centrally, through established Faculty, departmental and programme leads.

We particularly encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to undertake study exchange and international placements via promotion in Faculties and via placement coordinators and will continue to enhance inclusive policies and practice in regards to both outward and inward student mobility.

We are committed to enhancing monitoring and evaluation of outward and inward mobility to enhance the quality, promotion and dissemination and contribute to the UK HE and IHE sector's objectives and further developments.

Our Strategy for Education and Learning

At the heart of BU2025 is impact and BU's aim is to be a catalyst for sustainable social, environment and economic growth and development and to enrich society by having a significant impact on challenges worldwide. To enable this BU will empower our students and staff to engage with cutting-edge research and discovery, knowledge generation and knowledge exchange to drive change locally and worldwide. As part of BU2025, BU will continue to prioritise global staff and student collaborations, innovations in learning and education, and engagement with industry and professional practice.

Concepts of globalisation will be embedded in all academic units and programmes, and the curriculum will effectively reference and use examples that illustrate diversity. We will also ensure that graduates develop a global outlook and understand the need for sustainable development by seeking to embed sustainable development across the curriculum. The strategy ensures that the offering, outside of the normal academic activity, provides ample opportunity and incentives for staff and students to experience a diverse range of cultures, experiences and proactively supports diversity in all that BU does. The University is committed to bringing down barriers to student mobility and transnational education through cultural and linguistic training and support, the provision of funding, through exploiting opportunities and networks, and alleviating legal and regulatory constraints where possible. BU's distinctive combination of education, research and professional practice creates opportunities to expand on collaborations and develop innovative projects that benefit society.

Impact of our participation in Erasmus+

In conclusion, participation in the Erasmus+ Programme builds a solid knowledge base for managing international exchange for both staff and students at BU. The Erasmus+ Programme increases the overall attractiveness of BU for home and international students as an institution that is proactively engaged with internationalisation through promoting funded opportunities to its students to undertake study and work placements abroad during their studies. This framework also supports the development of partnerships across Europe that promote knowledge exchange and integration of research into education, which will help inform and develop industry professionalism, working practices, best practice and work ethics, part of BU2025. Finally, through our participation in the Erasmus+ programme BU is able to offer opportunities for students to engage in study and work abroad outside the UK which enriches their student experience and enhances their employability.