

Erasmus+ Policy Statement

Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU) has been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ programme 2014-2023. The Erasmus Policy Statement (below) sets out our institutional strategy in relation to the Charter.

BGU recognises that 21st century students must be ready for life in an increasingly borderless world, be able to engage with global issues, understand alternative cultural values and have the ability to interact with global partners.

The University's Internationalisation Strategy aims to prepare students for life and employment in a global society and ensure staff seek to engage in research and scholarship of International significance.

BGU is committed to Internationalising the University experience through:

- The development of new, and the enhancement of existing, institution wide partnerships with like-minded organisations in key strategic markets, whilst employing an ethical approach to building partnerships and collaboration.
- The Internationalisation of the curricula and the development of the academic portfolio to enhance the student experience.
- The recruitment of high quality staff and students.
- The development of collaborative International research networks and high quality teaching and learning programmes.
- The development of mutually beneficial projects and links with a range of International partners.

International collaborative partnerships and mobility form a major component in our strategic objectives with regard to teaching, learning and research. Many of our existing partnerships result from individual links between academic staff. Our existing partnerships are based in China, Europe and India. Whilst seeking to enhance these relationships we are open to opportunities in new markets.

We intend to enhance our involvement in EU related activity in the coming years where appropriate and our participation in the Erasmus+ programme will form a key part of our continuing internationalisation activities.

BGU has a number of well-established Erasmus partners with congruent curricula and research interests. These have benefited participating staff, students and their peers, who have experienced the different cultural outlooks, brought to the classroom by incoming students.

We plan to develop these partnerships over the duration of the new programme, this will enable us to raise our international profile and enrich mobility opportunities for students and staff. We will develop strategic partnerships with appropriate high quality EU and international institutions and organisations.

Our focus will remain on undergraduate and staff mobility; however we will also seek to develop opportunities to increase postgraduate mobility to offer an international experience at this level.

Periods of study or work mobility undertaken by our students receive full academic recognition, and do not lead to an increase in the overall length of study.

The University will seek to increase the number of students participating in mobility programmes, thereby supporting individuals by increasing their academic, social, intercultural and personal skills, and enhancing their employability after graduation. Academic programmes will identify at least one semester where student mobility can take place.

Additionally, the International office will work with staff across academic schools to explore the development of existing and new International links related to their particular areas of expertise, research or other joint endeavour.

We will continue to encourage high quality staff mobility. Outgoing staff strengthen the individuals' and consequently the institution's profile and development; incoming staff from university partners or enterprises delivering teaching, training or workshops bring an international perspective to the curriculum and broaden the minds of both home students and staff. This is of particular importance to those students who cannot undertake a mobility period abroad themselves.

BGU aims to send students and staff of all backgrounds abroad. We are committed to equality and the provision of opportunity for all. No one is treated less favourably on grounds such as age, gender role and identity, marital status, disability, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances and religious or political beliefs.

Promotion of mobility programmes will be increased and utilise a range of techniques including social media and student ambassadors. Activities will be publicised to all BGU students and staff making full use of university communication tools. Both National Agency and in-house designed materials will be used for promotional purposes. Information events will continue and be enhanced in an effort to reach all students and staff over the course of the year.

In all our international activities we recognise the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation, in order to inform and influence our future practice, policy and strategy. The programme and annual monitoring will be coordinated by a designated person in the International Office. We will review the quality of partnerships annually, to ensure their potential for mutual engagement is maximised and participants will be encouraged to evaluate and disseminate their experiences amongst their peers to assist with raising the profile of mobility activities.