

Norwich University of the Arts Erasmus Policy Statement 2015-20

The Norwich University of the Arts (NUA) Strategic Plan 2015-20 commits the University to enhance its European presence and international profile based upon three key elements of its international engagement, internationalisation, international recruitment and excellence in subject specialisms within the European, as well as global, contexts.

Within this strategic arena, internationalisation is defined by opportunities for international interaction and mobility within the NUA curriculum and course offer; and for enhanced awareness and engagement with cultural diversity both academically and pastorally within the curriculum and wider student experience.

The University's international strategy aims to further develop its existing international network of contemporary specialist creative arts universities to enhance the student experience, to maximise graduate employability and to focus on creative excellence.

The development of the student experience across national boundaries by further developing student mobility and the diversification of the student body at NUA is seen as an important future characteristic of the University's academic community; intentions regarding joint research and trans-European pedagogic innovation that should lead to funding and outputs across and beyond geographic boundaries and national academies.

Concepts of internationalisation of creative practice and the globalisation of the creative industries is to be embedded in NUA's academic units and courses at Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels of study, and approved course curriculum effectively reference and cite examples that exemplify diversity and inclusion.

The University seeks to ensure that its graduates develop a global perspective on their practice and are able to locate themselves intellectually and geographically in relation to appropriate opportunities for professional development and creative employment. Staff and student mobilities within Erasmus+ supports and enhances students' understanding of the need for sustainable development by seeking to embed sustainable practice within the curriculum.

This strategy ensures that the offering, as an integral part of the normal course activity, provides opportunities and incentives for staff and students to experience a diverse range of cultures and proactively supports diversity in all that NUA does.

The University is committed to bringing down barriers to student mobility and transnational education through cultural and creative education and support, the provision of support, mentoring and funding; through exploiting opportunities and networks, whilst complying with legal and regulatory constraints.

Norwich University of the Arts has in place a Common Academic Structure that interacts with other countries' semesterised systems that supports mobility throughout the academic year.

All NUA students have the opportunity to undertake a period of mobility, placement or work-related learning opportunity as part of their course.

The University encourages students to engage with these opportunities internationally by providing infrastructural support for student mobility, portfolio development, interview and language training. Partners are chosen according to the academic compatibility of NUA and the partner to maximise the potential for academic exchange, dissemination of good practice and student and staff mobility – real and virtual. Partners are also chosen for the compatibility of their vision and strategic aims to NUA's Strategic Plan 2015-20.

NUA chooses partners that have credibility and experience related to the academic level of engagement sought and must also be of appropriate financial standing and must not constitute an unacceptable level of financial or reputational risk for the University.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme increases the overall attractiveness of NUA 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-related learning abroad during their studies. Efforts to widen participation are enhanced by the provision of funding by the Erasmus+ Programme for all eligible students at NUA to engage in study and work placements outside the UK.

NUA seeks to strengthen and extend its present participation in European student interactions through enhanced links and in facilitating increased student mobility. Partnership schemes are in operation with a range of specialist European HEI's, and it is the University's aim to continue to develop and expand this network of arts, design, architecture and media partners in the European Community.

Participation in the Erasmus Programme builds a solid knowledge base for managing international exchange for both staff and students at NUA and this framework 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.

Through its participation in the Erasmus+ programme, NUA is able to offer opportunities for students to engage in study outside the UK which enriches their student experience and enhances their employability.

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