



**UNIVERSITY OF  
LIMERICK**  
**OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH**

## **ERASMUS CHARTER POLICY STATEMENT**

The University of Limerick's UL@50 Strategic Plan, 2019 to 2024, seeks to grow our global reach and expand engagement in EU programmes. UL is ambitious in its plan to develop an international Irish university, with the objectives of embedding global perspectives in the curriculum and campus while fostering cross-cultural competencies, which can be achieved through project participation, as well as supporting policy development at national, EU, and international levels. It specifies five strategic goals in the development of UL, one of which is internationalisation. "Our creative and entrepreneurial approach and programmes attract, develop, and retain high-calibre international students and staff, leading to the diversification of our community. We recognise the need to enrich the academic and intellectual experience of our student and staff communities through internationalisation. We also recognise the need to develop our global reach to grow our academic reputation. We will accomplish these goals by honing our programmes to meet global market needs, by attracting leading international academics and by continuing to facilitate international partnerships in research and education".

The internationalisation goal of UL@50 is to sharpen the University's global focus. Embedded in the University's goals are key priorities, which are essential to delivering the strategy. The first priority looks at the diversification of our UL community. We will implement this priority by targeting global markets aligned to our areas of excellence and maximising funding opportunities. Inclusion will be core to our activity. Attracting international academic leaders with varying perspectives so that we can enhance our research capabilities and enrich the student experience is essential. Further developing our language offering, by providing all students with a second language option, will reinforce our leading position in the Erasmus programme.

The second priority is the provision of a high-quality experience for international students. The objective is to enhance the international student experience by delivering quality, coherent and integrated graduate offerings and engaging our students in industry. We aim to enrich our international education programmes through a comprehensive suite of supports that, together with the academic experience, make UL the Irish university of choice for international students. We also wish to continue to support international student and staff exchange and study abroad through our extensive network of partnerships, for example, the Erasmus programme.

The third priority of our internationalisation goal focuses on International partnerships that enhance our global ranking. Key objectives within this are fostering research partnerships with leading global partners in education and collaborating with emerging European universities, specifically with those that share our enterprise culture. The plan stipulates engaging in EU programmes and supporting cooperation programmes between institutions that tackle global challenges and the UN sustainable development goals in areas where we have expertise, such as health and education and mandates for greater participation in international partnerships and networks that tackle global challenges. This dual approach to sharing and developing knowledge in cooperation projects and partnerships thereby gaining knowledge, skills and competencies in specialised areas, will enhance the teaching and learning activities of staff and students. It will also increase the quality of graduates at all levels and contribute to the development of a globally focused community. This community will form a strong framework to address and develop plans to meet emerging needs at all levels and in all areas of education and training. Engaging in global university networks that contribute to the professional and academic development of the university is a key priority with special reference to the European Universities Initiative. This will build on current partnerships forming transnational strategic alliances strengthening the approach to a cross and inter-disciplinary European team addressing challenges faced by higher education in Europe, overseen by the most senior levels of management at the University.

This represents a powerful endorsement of UL's commitment to EU and non-EU educational cooperation across a range of key activities, internally and externally. Within the context of the UL strategic plan, implementation of University policy for internationalisation rests on a number of key activities. The University goals have embedded four key themes to shape the development of UL@50, our strategic plan: Transforming learning, Digital transformation, City and Culture, Health and wellbeing.

The collective focus of the University will gravitate toward working together to instil our:

- 'Academic reputation' - growing and improving our academic reputation in Ireland and internationally;
- 'The UL graduate' – Educating outstanding graduates and active citizens;
- 'Supporting our people' – Enabling our staff to achieve their ambition;
- 'Civic University' – Actively engaging with our city and our region to support the region and economy;

- ‘Inclusion and diversity’ – Embracing and promoting an open and welcoming campus for all;
- ‘Dynamism’ – Continually challenging our ambitions and proactively seeking out new opportunities

In the provision of a high quality experience for those on mobility, target groups for activities are students from first, second and third cycles and members of academic, technical, and administrative staff. An extensive network of partnerships that we monitor and engage with ensure excellence in academic study or training through broadening of the student or staff experiences in an institution situated in a different geographical and cultural milieu. This leads, in the case of the student, to an enhanced learning experience, and, in the case of the staff member, to innovative and improved teaching practices and the creation of valuable academic contacts and networks. The University of Limerick has leveraged the potential of the Erasmus programme to equip students with many of these skills combinations. Further engagement with key strategic partners and global university networks to foster more links in research, enterprise culture, civic engagement and sustainability and environmental projects will be a key objective.

To further grow mobility of students, researchers and staff, a key development plan will specifically focus on UL outbound mobility and ensuring accessibility to all staff and students. Enhancing student mobility through international short-term and semester-based study and placement opportunities and fostering modern foreign-language learning is key to our success. Our commitment to building symbiotic partnerships and collaborations across all Key Actions will add to our impact and sustainable development. Cooperation projects will also build on the mobility programmes and will leverage these symbiotic relationships to develop institutional and systemic impact through collaborative activities targeting innovation excellence and knowledge exchange with current and new partners, strategically targeting key regions and partners. We will continue to embed learning mobility into curricula while ensuring credit recognition through quality assurance.