



Erasmus Policy Statement

The UCB 2017-2020 Corporate Strategy and our Mission statement confirms the University's goal of ensuring that the international perspectives and vocational excellence characterising all UCB's Further Education and Higher Education provision will continue to attract a high proportion of EU and international students, so enhancing the learning experience of all in the UCB community. As such, the strategic objective across UCB is to promote a culturally diverse institution that develops students as global citizens and which enriches the learning experiences of students and staff through international partnerships and work placement opportunities, in order to enhance the employability and future careers of both home, EU and international students. UCB further recognises that it holds a duty of care for our student community which needs to be met through the provision of high quality support and advice, whether this be for outgoing or incoming exchange students and staff.

In the context of the international learning arena, actions are curriculum led, operating through focused strategic partnerships and international recruitment initiatives, so ensuring that the education of our students and staff is enriched through experiences which have an international dimension. This approach is consistent with the University's Corporate Plan objectives which seek to extend access to Higher Education and life-long learning by promoting access and equality of opportunity, removing barriers to participation and in providing an approach to learning which is responsive to the needs of all students.

The University's objectives within the context of overall international collaboration are:

- To continue the policy of encouraging and collaborating in international overseas visits (non-EU funded) to partner institutions/international environments for all students on Further and Higher Education programmes and to develop residential programmes for those currently not involved in EU funded related activity.
- To continue playing an active role in EU and non-EU educational and employer networks

To continue actively seeking appropriate international study opportunities and placements for UCB students, especially in the context of those areas of the UCB curriculum which are relatively under-represented in this context and working in partnerships where a specific focus on service management exists.

To actively pursue international project opportunities relevant to the UCB curriculum area.



To focus providing opportunities for second year (Level 5) undergraduate students to undertake student mobility programmes for a semester in partner institutions and for final year (Level 3) Further Education students to undertake short work placements in the EU.

- To continually review and improve UCB programmes in the context of the experiences gained by students and staff working in both EU and non-EU partner institutions.
- To use the international learning experience in sharing and devising new techniques of delivering learning and assessment and in informing the curriculum.
- To continually invest in new equipment and facilities which enhance international learning environment experiences.

To Continue to Identify and Actively Pursue Sources of External Funding

- To maximise income from European funding sources.
- To maintain and develop further links with a growing network of EU and non-EU partners to continually seek international collaborative ventures in respect of vocationally focused projects, curriculum initiatives and a range of progression arrangements, including study abroad semesters.

The latter builds on UCB and our partners experiences of the Socrates-Erasmus programme in the usual form of 3+1 arrangements, with the final year of a degree being studied at UCB, after the first years are spent with the partner institution, leading to the award of an honours degree by the University of Birmingham (to whom UCB is an accredited University), and with the partner institution then recognising UCB final year derived credits as contributing towards the achievement of their own degree.

To Develop Improved Support Networks for Students

- To develop improved student support networks for all students, through providing impartial language, careers, placement, credit transfer and personal and financial advice in the context of EU and non-EU learning environment opportunities.
- To implement appropriate strategies in the context of insurance coverage for both outgoing and incoming students and staff engaging in international learning activities.
- To continue providing additional units to UCB's residential housing stock, to cater for the needs of UCB and international partner institution students.



- To develop a coherent system for individual action planning, reports, references, assessment and student tracking in the context of all international learning environment activity.
- To ensure that incoming students and their home institution are informed about the students' academic achievements in an agreed format.
- To provide UCB and EU and non-EU partner institution clients with full tutorial and student services support
- To implement an appropriate debriefing and integration strategies for students returning from the international student learning environment.
- To continually monitor student satisfaction.
- To provide appropriate language support services to students and staff in the context of the international learning environment

Strategy for the Organisation and Implementation of International Cooperation Projects in Teaching and Training

Non-teaching related mobility international projects are approved by the UCB Collaborative Provision Committee and, if successful, are then coordinated by the Deans of the relevant School. Appropriate staff are selected by the School to engage in these projects.

The schedule for visiting tutors is coordinated by the ISC, who liaise with the appropriate Deans of School in the reception of visiting tutors from partner institutions. The Centre will liaise in respect of accommodation and travel, with Schools determining teaching/demonstration sessions. All arriving staff are briefed and inducted by the ISC prior to commencing teaching. Opportunities for talking to potential outbound students are also included in the schedule. The ISC will complete any documentation required as evidence of the teaching/training having taken place.

For outbound teaching mobility, initial destinations are determined by the ISC, with Schools being contacted to nominate staff. The aim is to achieve a balance in subject areas covered and to ensure as many staff as possible have the opportunity to engage, so enriching staff development as consistent with the Corporate Plan. The ISC is also sympathetic to any specific requests from partners. Selected outbound staff are briefed and given the contact at the partner institution in order to arrange their travel, reception and teaching /training tasks. Staff are debriefed upon their return and are required to complete an evaluation for UCB's Personnel Department as a formal requirement of UCB staff development. Reporting of staff mobility is undertaken by the ISC.

UCB Policy Objectives in the Context of the Higher Education Modernisation Agenda



UCB recognises the importance of the five priorities of the EU Higher Education Modernisation Agenda, which are reflected in the institution's policy objectives as captured in the UCB 2017-2020 Corporate Strategy and to which the international perspective of the Plan applies.

- UCB puts students first and is dedicated to strategies to encourage as many people as possible to access both Further and Higher education and lifelong learning. An important aspect of this access lies in exposure to internationalization, as captured through various EU study and work related mobility programmes.
- In recognition of the need for the continual ongoing excellence in training and education delivery in order to equip graduates with the knowledge and the necessary core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations, UCB recognizes that outstanding teaching from highly professional, industry aware and well qualified staff is a prerequisite of success. Mobility placements offer academic staff the opportunity to develop and improve the quality and relevance of teaching and training and are therefore encouraged within the staff development agenda.
- UCB is committed to providing opportunities for students to gain additional skills and knowledge through study or training experiences overseas, and to encourage cross-border co-operation with partner institutions to mutually enhance Higher Education performance in the pursuit of providing relevant skills for students in the workplace.
- As an industry focused Higher Education institute, serving industrial sectors characterised by globalisation, UCB recognises the importance and benefits of international influences on the curriculum offer which serves to strengthen the "knowledge triangle", linking education and business. This is consistent with the Mission statement of UCB.
- UCB is dedicated to ensuring effective governance and appropriate funding mechanisms in support of excellence.