



## **SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT**

The University's international strategy outlines our vision to become an "International University". This will be evidenced by, among other objectives:

- the development of "strong and mutually beneficial international partnerships and collaborations within key strategic regions" and
- "globally aware and engaged SHU students and staff".

A key objective of our strategy is:

- to "review the nature and benefits of existing partnerships and establish clear objectives"
- to "differentiate partnerships around roles and purposes (e.g. recruitment, articulation and progression, research, delivery etc.)"
- to "strengthen collaborative dimensions through staff and student exchanges, joint curricula development and joint approaches to corporate development"
- and "establish clear relationship management arrangements between SHU and partner institutions".

Another major aim is to "maximise opportunities to increase the global awareness of SHU students and staff" which we aim to achieve by:

- increasing the number of UK SHU students participating in student exchange programmes, in partner institution
- study/work placement periods, and undertaking parts of their SHU programmes in different countries (via partnerships)
- maximising where relevant global awareness within the curricula and course design and
- integrating where appropriate staff exchanges in key international partnerships.

We are committed to providing a learning and teaching experience for our students and staff which includes an international dimension; student and staff mobility forms an integral part of this.

We aim to:

- ensure that our students are prepared for a global working environment and will facilitate the development of curricula to support this;
- continue to encourage our students to gain experience of studying and/or working abroad (particularly at first cycle level) and study another language as part of their course
- establish a community of academic and administrative staff with an international perspective gained through teaching and training visits abroad (with a focus on increasing two way staff mobility), curriculum development projects and international research partnerships.

We have a long history of working with international partners and have a wide range links which are both broad in subject area and rich in opportunities for students to obtain a University qualification. Our partnerships are not only with public and private educational institutions; we have agreements with professional bodies, employers and governments. We strive to select partners which provide a quality experience for students and staff and review partnerships to ensure we have a broad and popular offer of subject and location. The international development team are organised by regional groups who work across central directorates and faculties to manage and develop our partnerships in conjunction with our international strategy. We choose our partners based on our regional



strategies at relevant University groups and these are risk assessed and administered by our centrally co-ordinated Partnership Support Unit.

We participate in the development of dual awards. One example of this is a long-standing relationship we have with a university in Paris which enables students to study partly in France and partly in the UK to be awarded a Sheffield Hallam LLB and a Maîtrise en droit in France, so the student is qualified to practise law in both countries. We are involved in many other models of collaborative partnerships with institutions all over the world. These include: a wide range of progression arrangements; collaborations where our academic staff travel to a partner to deliver our courses and external validation (approval of a partner's course for the award of University credit).

Erasmus bi-lateral agreements are initiated, managed and reviewed by designated, subject specific mobility co-ordinators based in our four academic Faculties. The Directorate of International Development manages the institution's list of bilateral agreements and reviews and updates this at key times in the year according to our Erasmus planning calendar.

The University's international strategy aims to "integrate where appropriate staff exchanges in key international partnerships" and we will prioritise continued support for co-operation projects in teaching and training. Staff mobility for teaching and training is integrated into the staff development programme of many subject areas across the University and is widely recognised and supported. We actively support opportunities via centrally co-ordinated information, advice and publicity led by our Directorate of International Development (DID). This is implemented locally by designated, subject specific mobility co-ordinators based in our four academic Faculties. Funding information and support is equally coordinated and supported centrally by DID.

We plan to further improve promotion by further developing promotion of training opportunities in particular, profiling case studies of former participants. We ensure that activities are available for all eligible staff and facilitate the participation of staff with special needs by ensuring the necessary support services are in place at both our partner and our own institutions and supplementary allowances are publicised appropriately. Staff are nominated by their local mobility co-ordinator in their Faculty to DID and are selected on the basis of their teaching or work plan submitted and endorsed by both the sending and host institution/enterprise. Priority is given to staff working abroad for the first time. Feedback from participants is gathered and evaluated on an ongoing basis and acted upon where appropriate.

Through the programme, and the development of strong partnerships in the EU and internationally, we aim to increase the number of graduates by providing an attractive offer to prospective students, offering the opportunity to participate in challenging and enriching mobility periods which will well-equip students for further study and employment. Our participation in the programme will increase the number of exchange students at the University and in turn increase the number of University graduates.

We aim to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and research at the University by acknowledging and supporting two-way staff exchanges and participation in curriculum development projects and international research partnerships, thereby enabling staff to further develop their skills and knowledge and share best practice through strong established partnerships as well as creating a community of staff with an international perspective.



We aim to further develop student mobility for study and work abroad by reviewing current partnerships to ensure we have an extensive and attractive offer across the institution and reassess barriers such as flexibility within the curriculum. We will strive to provide more opportunities for students by continuing to actively promote mobility programmes and the benefits to students of taking part (working to overcome perceived barriers) and encourage the study of foreign languages as part of the course of study and encourage social and academic interaction with students from other countries. We will continue to ensure that activities are available for all eligible students and facilitate the participation of disabled and widening participation students.

We aim to strengthen the "knowledge triangle" by continuing to link education, research and business. Our staff are leaders in their field, many with current and previous industry or applied research experience, all committed to providing the highest quality education. We design our innovative and career orientated courses to enhance students' careers, ensuring they gain the skills and knowledge demanded by the workplace. Participation in the programme and further developing strong partnerships with other institutions and enterprises will further strengthen our offer to students, staff, our partners and employers.

Through the programme we have well developed governance and funding mechanisms that support excellence through our students, staff and collaborations. Our funding mechanisms are reviewed each year according to the guidelines set out by the programme and we continue to develop our processes, making the best use of technology to ensure we effectively support mobility across the institution and our partners.