

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Participation in Erasmus+

Describe how you plan to participate in Erasmus+ actions in the future.

NCI would like to participate in Key Actions 1 and 2.

Student mobility for studies:

One of our key strategic themes in the NCI Academic Strategy 2019-2024 is to provide an outstanding student experience. We aim to “create the opportunities for our students to have an exceptional and distinctive experience which prepares them for life beyond their studies and which is the beginning of a positive lifelong relationship with the college and with continuing education.” We know that exchange opportunities would add great value to our students. We are keen to grow our European partnerships to encourage and support a robust Erasmus mobility programme for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Student mobility for traineeships:

NCI will facilitate the promotion and engagement of Erasmus Traineeships to their students. We currently offer this as an option for placements on certain programmes, educational disciplines, including Computing and Business to name but a few. We envisage that students will take advantage of NCI being part of Erasmus+ programme. NCI being an Erasmus Charter holder will allow our students the opportunity to work in a global environment obtaining insight and invaluable cultural experience on how to conduct business at an international level. This in turn will lead NCI students to becoming ‘global’ students. This will enhance our students’ skills both academically and personally making them more diverse when it comes to graduate recruitment opportunities.

Staff mobility for teaching:

NCI will actively participate in Erasmus+ staff mobility projects to provide an opportunity for students who do not wish to go abroad to get access to other European lecturers and hear from a different viewpoint. NCI is also interested in staff exchanges to work on developing new materials and joint projects with other European institutions.

As part of our Academic Strategy, NCI aims to “Develop the knowledge, capabilities and skills of our people”. Academic staff mobility under the Erasmus+ programme will encourage our faculty to share their ideas with international colleagues and provide an opportunity for growth, development, and international collaboration.

Staff mobility for training:

Given that NCI are new to the Erasmus+ mobility programme, it will be invaluable for our administrative staff to learn from other international offices about Erasmus implementation and best practice. Other units within the College such as the careers teams, Finance and our IT teams are interested in attending specialised training programmes under the Erasmus+ scheme such as the ShipCon masterclass courses.

Blended intensive programmes:

NCI would be interested in developing online and intensive blended learning opportunities to enhance participation in the Erasmus+ programme

Under Key Action 2 NCI will engage with other European institutions to explore new and innovative approaches in relation to accessibility to attract students with additional needs or with fewer opportunities to participate in Erasmus+ exchange programmes. We will cooperate internationally to work on joint projects that deal with global issues.

Explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution.

All Erasmus+ key actions will be managed centrally by the International Office at NCI. The International team will identify potential Erasmus institutional partners, promote the programme, and engage with faculty and students to facilitate the necessary paperwork required for inbound and outbound mobilities. Progress on Erasmus+ will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and discussed at the International Partnership Steering Group, which is attended by the Registrar, the Deans, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Director of Quality Assurance. We will nominate a dedicated resource within the international team to manage and promote the Erasmus+ programme once NCI have been approved to hold the Charter.

We have surveyed our academic faculty to get an understanding of what links with European partners currently exist and will leverage these relationships to set up exchange partnerships for both students and staff.

The International support team will promote outbound mobility opportunities by hosting workshops and interactive sessions with domestic students. They will also include incoming Erasmus students in their onboarding activities alongside other international students.

Strategy, objectives, and impact

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme? Which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue? Describe how the participation fits into your institutional, internationalisation and modernisation strategies.

Global Impact is a key theme of our academic strategy. NCI plans on achieving global impact by “incorporating internationalisation in all areas of college activity, including a globally relevant curriculum, promoting global citizenship and collaborating on teaching, research and knowledge exchange with international partner”. Participating in the Erasmus+ programme complements and supports this aim.

It’s fundamental to NCI that student mobility opportunities are integrated into our curriculum. Access is a key element of NCI’s DNA. NCI provides accessibility for students who seek to avail of educational opportunities in a format which is conducive to work life harmony and to those who might not easily avail of third level education otherwise. The College shares the Erasmus objective of inclusiveness and welcomes the opportunities that NCI students will gain.

NCI graduates are often recruited by large multinational companies where they work with people from around the world. Access to a European educational experience will not only give our students the chance to make lifelong friends but will also add great value to their experience at NCI and will help set our students up for their future global career.

Post Brexit, it’s imperative that NCI students feel more connected to the European Union and student exchange opportunities are a great way to foster further appreciation of our shared European culture.

What is the envisaged impact of the participation on your institution? Explain how you expect the participation to contribute towards achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy. Explain how it will contribute to making your institution more modern and more international. Explain how you expect the participation to contribute to the goal of building a European Education Area.

NCI's mission is to change lives through education. Actively participating in the Erasmus+ programme would help NCI to achieve its goals of enhancing its global impact, its research impact, improving the student experience, enhancing staff skills, and supporting our aim to broaden access to international opportunities

We will set growth targets year on year for outbound and inbound mobility for staff and students.

For each of our goals, for the first three years we will aim to grow participation in the programme by at least 25% year on year. Starting in 2023 we will set a mobility target of 10 students per School (20 students in total) plus 20 academic staff members. We will also measure the success of the programme by reviewing the proportion of full-time learners that gain an international experience over the duration of their programme.

In relation to staff exchanges, we will measure the success by tracking the proportion of academics that engage with the programme and measure the level of collaboration and joint research proposals with partner institutions.

In terms of our ambition to encourage participation and broaden access to the Erasmus programme, we will measure the percentage of students from DARE and HEAR backgrounds that participate in Erasmus. DARE is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second-level education. The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college scheme that offers places and extra college support to those who are underrepresented at Higher Education due to their socio-economic background.