

Plymouth University

Internationalisation Strategy 2014-2020

Vision

This Strategy supports our University mission of advancing knowledge and transforming lives through education and research. Building on our previous Internationalisation Strategy 2009-2012, we aim to be a learning organisation enriched by the diverse experiences, values and cultures of our international students and staff. In broadening our view of the world, we will prepare our students to play their role as global citizens, and, as a University deeply rooted in our location – an anchor institution - have a positive impact on our City and region. As our network of global partnerships grows so the University's mission to transform lives will reach many new parts of the world.

Overarching Aim

To be global in our networks, opportunities and outlook.

Key Strategic Opportunities

Our Internationalisation Strategy is shaped and informed by the rapid globalisation and worldwide interconnectedness within which higher education operates. We consider internationalisation a core theme cross-cutting all of our activities and reflect it as such across all ambitions of our University Strategy 2020.

Our Internationalisation Strategy sets out four goals we will pursue to advance our internationalisation agenda. Within these are key strategic opportunities that we will seek to deliver:

- A commitment to developing international opportunities both 'at Plymouth' and across the world to create a truly connected and culturally responsive institution.
- A commitment to embed international themes, including sustainability and global citizenship, across all of our programme curricula, teaching, research and innovation.
- A commitment to offer all Plymouth University students opportunity to have an international experience – whether that be through travel or on the UK campus.
- A commitment to the quality and alignment with our mission and values of all existing and potential international activities over quantity and financial drivers.
- A focus on developing our international footprint through partnerships and/or student recruitment in key areas, specifically North America, Middle East and Far East.
- A recognition that world-class universities by their very nature are international in scope, reach and impact and that ensuring the highest quality of our international activities and connections is paramount.

Context

Our University Strategy 2020 has a number of key themes relating to internationalisation. This Strategy seeks to build on and develop those themes to set out the University's internationalisation strategy for the next 7 years.

Key Themes from Strategy 2020

- Developing excellent learning in partnership with our students. In particular offering a globally relevant and culturally rich experience by growing our global student body and encouraging all students to undertake curricula and extra-curricular activities with an international perspective
- Building on the world class research of the University and growing its research standing and impact internationally
- Fostering and promoting international opportunities for our students and staff through cross cultural events on our campuses; exchange and study abroad programmes and research and professional connections
- Taking the Plymouth University experience across the world expanding the delivery of our programmes and courses overseas

Relevance to You

Our Internationalisation Strategy will be relevant to you if you are:

Student - this Strategy is our commitment to developing a number of exciting and enriching ways to engage with the world through your studies. This includes the design and content of your programme, opportunities to collaborate with students from other parts of the world and opportunities to study abroad or to gain a Plymouth degree and student experience overseas.

Staff at the University - this Strategy reinforces our University commitment to initiatives which will enrich the student and staff experience from a global perspective and broaden our reputation and influence around the world.

Alumni - we want to keep in touch with you wherever you are in the world and will continue to support the establishment of groups and events to keep you in touch with the University and each other. We want to support the impact you are having on the world as leaders in and contributors to a global society.

Partner or Potential Partner - this Strategy sets out our commitment to sustaining and growing the depth and number of our global partnerships and sets out the key features we look for in partnership working.

Internationalisation Goals

Goal 1: Global student experience in partnership with our students

We will continue to develop programmes and study opportunities to deliver a student experience which provides our students with the international outlook, knowledge and skills to work in the global economy and to play their part as world citizens. We consider our student community to be by its very nature global, attracting students from across the world, whether from the UK, European Union or elsewhere in the world.

To achieve this goal we will work in partnership with the Students' Union and student community to:

- Ensure that international themes including sustainability and global citizenship are included in our curriculum whether the programmes are delivered in Plymouth or elsewhere in the world.
- Ensure our student experience is inclusive and meets the needs of students from all parts of the world.
- Include in our employability initiatives student employability around the world.
- Develop the Plymouth Global Citizen Charter capturing the international values and skills our students will need in the 21st century.
- Develop excellent support and advice services that support the varied needs of our global student body and enhance their experience with us.
- Sustain a range of high profile social and cultural activities reflecting the diverse staff and student groups at the University and where possible engage the City of Plymouth and South West region in these.
- Encourage students to engage in international volunteering opportunities.

Goal 2: Global Partnerships

We will increase and sustain a network of academic partnerships for the delivery of Plymouth University programmes across the world. The global partnerships will include overseas delivery of Plymouth programmes; opportunities for progression to study on the Plymouth campus; research collaborations including post graduate research students; and study abroad opportunities. We will also explore the opportunities for our global partnerships to support our University enterprise vision.

To achieve this goal we will:

- Ensure our global partnerships are primarily focussed on quality, financially sustainable and reputationally robust and phase out partnerships which do not meet the ambitions in this Strategy.

- Develop a three year rolling plan for identifying high priority parts of the world to focus partnership development for the University, matched to our academic strengths, with a particular emphasis for 2014-17 on North America and new emerging economies in the Far East and Middle East.
- Seek partners who share our University values and in particular our mission to transform lives.
- Seek partnerships which grow our global reputation and visibility as a world class University.
- Continue to develop and extend activities with our existing partners.
- Use technology to enable delivery of modules and programmes around the world (whether in partnership or from PU) initially piloting the use of technology in transnational education.
- Ensure our partnerships where our programmes of delivered overseas maintain the high academic standards expected by the University and share the values we hold for the student experience.
- Involve our Students' Union and the student body in Plymouth and overseas in our partnerships.
- Develop and identify a small number of strategic partnerships to form a *Plymouth Global Network*.
- Celebrate our global partnership network.
- Support and promote links to global corporations to enable graduate employment opportunities and the growth of our enterprise agenda.

Goal 3: Global reach

We will increase the diversity of our student body by seeking to attract international students from a wider range of countries.

To achieve this goal we will:

- Learn from and apply world best practice in the recruitment of international students to our University, always ensuring a friendly and welcoming experience.
- Develop and sustain a range of agent relationships and overseas offices which support our international recruitment activity.
- Develop programmes which meet the needs and aspirations of international students.
- Sustain student services and partnerships with external organisations which support international students as students and as part of the community of Plymouth.
- Offer active scholarships and bursaries to international students of high merit.
- Recognise the challenges of studying in higher education in a second language and provide English preparation and support which enables our students to succeed.
- Develop networks and events which promote what the University, City and South West region has to offer.

- Work closely with partners in the UK for international student progression or entry to our programmes particularly our Navitas partner Plymouth University International College.
- Keep engaged with our overseas alumni.
- Use technologies to our best advantage in enabling international networking remotely and delivering accessible programmes around the world in creative and innovative ways.

Goal 4: Global Opportunities

We will open our University to the myriad of possibilities and opportunities afforded through a global exchange of ideas, values and experiences for both our students and our staff. To learn from others from different parts of the world, understand different cultures and ways of working, and share the Plymouth University experience with colleagues and peers across nations. Our aspiration is for all our students – undergraduate and postgraduate – to have opportunity for an international experience – whether overseas or through our own international activities on campus.

To achieve this goal we will:

- Support staff and student mobility schemes such as the International Student Exchange Programme (ISEP) and Erasmus Develop a range of student study abroad or exchange opportunities across the world.
- Develop a coherent range of short course/summer school opportunities, credit-bearing where appropriate, for our students to study overseas and for overseas students to study in Plymouth.
- Provide support for staff and students studying or working overseas to ensure they are well prepared and safe.
- Provide training and development opportunities for all staff in the University to support the delivery of this Strategy and in particular to enable staff at the University to deliver an inclusive student experience for all our students wherever they are from.
- Develop a small number of global programmes delivered across the Plymouth Global Network where students would spend several periods of study overseas as an integral part of the programme.
- Deliver robust recruitment and retention of international staff to the University, ensuring that we learn from and encourage adoption of their unique international perspectives into our activities.
- Reflect international influences through the physicality of our campus environments to reflect our increasingly global community within the context of our Plymouth location.

Measuring our Progress

Overall responsibility for implementation of the Internationalisation Strategy lies with the Dean of Academic Partnerships working in collaboration with colleagues and senior leaders across the University. We will monitor our progress in delivering against this strategy via the following indicators:

- % International student population on campus
- % international student population in country
- Income from international students
- % international staff population
- % UG and PG programmes offering international experience as part of curriculum
- % international students who would recommend PU as a place to study
- Income from international research funding
- Income from international partnerships (e.g. incountry provision)
- Outward mobility - Number and percentage of PU students on overseas exchange