

Erasmus Policy Statement

The University of Roehampton is an international university. It is a characteristic that is apparent in the diversity of our students and staff, the nature of our teaching and research and the way we engage with the world at large.

From the formation of our colleges in the mid-19th century, we have engendered a spirit of inclusivity, offering education to all. That collegiate ethos of equality, diversity, mutual respect and understanding is reflected in the University's aim to facilitate exposure to different social and cultural traditions and foster an international perspective among both staff and students. We prepare students to be leaders and responsible citizens in an increasingly complex world, as well as to take up successful careers in a globalised economy.

We recognise that universities are key drivers in the global economy, providing much of the trained workforce, professional development, academic and applied research and acting as a catalyst for knowledge transfer; most critically of all they provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and the encouragement of cross-border thinking and cooperation.

This understanding and recognition of the importance of internationalisation is evidenced through our international recruitment activity, commitment to an international student and staff experience and increasing international reputation for research.

We aim to recruit quality students from around the world to encourage a diverse, exciting campus experience, both in and out of the classroom. With over 130 different nationalities represented in our 9,000 student body, we provide students with the opportunity to engage in a truly cross cultural context. International recruitment also diversifies our income streams, supporting the University's financial stability and sustainability.

We operate in a number of key recruitment markets around the world. Geographic activity is based on research that has identified two criteria: traditionally strong markets which are to be nurtured and further developed (e.g. Norway, USA and China); and those markets with which we are beginning to engage based on the suitability of our academic portfolio, the need to expose current students to these markets and the emergence or strength of these markets for the UK as a whole (for example Nigeria, Thailand and Brazil). Recruitment activity is maximised through the continued development of a strong agent network. Increasingly, however, University partnerships are being developed to support our international reputation and provide clear recruitment channels and mobility opportunities for students and staff at Roehampton and its partner institutions.

Roehampton promotes and encourages international study and work experiences either through international exchange opportunities or faculty led programmes, particularly at the undergraduate level. All students on the BA Hons Modern Languages degree must study in the country of origin of the language being studied. Within these countries, partnerships are developed based on reputation of the

institution and research/teaching links of academic members of staff. BSc International Business degree students must spend one semester abroad anywhere in the world. They must study one semester of foreign language prior to going abroad however they will typically go to a destination that uses the participants' first language. For this programme partnerships are based on the reputation of the institution, language of instruction at the partner and more recently the socio-economic significance of the host country for the learning outcomes of the degree. Outside of these specific degree programmes, all students are encouraged to study abroad. Promotional campaigns are developed around key on-campus events such as open days, Freshers' week and the study abroad fair. In order to maximise the opportunities for students to go abroad, partnerships are developed in English speaking countries or at institutions whose language of instruction is English, if the institution has a strong reputation in a specific subject area or is in a country of emerging global importance.

We currently operate three faculty-led programmes, one of which operates at a University level, to broaden students' general education horizons. All undergraduate and postgraduate students are encouraged to apply for this university wide programme.

The University sponsors and promotes various funding opportunities to encourage scholarship at an international level, including the Doctoral and Masters level studentships and the Santander Scholarships for the benefit of students and staff. The international outlook also applies to academic and support staff. They are encouraged to embark on a period abroad at a partner institution, to encourage them to bring new ideas and insight back to the curriculum and daily operations, maximising the teaching and learning experience for students and cement Roehampton's international profile.