

**D**

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

### ***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The College's strategic approach for the period 2012-2016 is firmly aligned to EU policy on the modernisation of education, the Bologna process, Horizon 2020 and the Irish government's own National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030. Accordingly, its Strategic Plan is structured against the backdrop of key modernisation, participatory, and mission-centric imperatives that are common to these foundational documents. The MIC Strategic Plan begins with a set of seven 'pillars,' reflective of these imperatives and related performance indicators. These pillars are:

Pillar 1 Mission and identity of the College as a Catholic Institution of Higher Education

Pillar 2 Excellence in teaching and learning and in advanced scholarship and research

Pillar 3 A high quality and holistic learning experience, enabling the flourishing of our students' lives

Pillar 4 An international dimension to all College activities

Pillar 5 Commitment to making a positive difference in our community, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally

Pillar 6 A learning environment and work place of the highest quality

Pillar 7 Best Practice, efficiency and effectiveness in governance, leadership and management

The existence of a specific internationalisation element to the MIC strategy as a central 'pillar' demonstrates its significance to the institution and the weight that is attached to it.

The desire to achieve growth in this area was an important part of the reasoning behind the design of our three-stage Campus Development Plan and with the first two phases of this completed between 2007 and 2010 we are primed to capitalise on the major increase in teaching space available to us. Indeed, having succeeded in the creation of a truly world-class campus, this, together with our excellent undergraduate and postgraduate academic programmes, and the positioning of the College within an important regional gateway in the West, makes MIC exceptionally attractive to prospective international students.

We aim to intensify our efforts to diversify and re-conceptualise our academic offerings towards this end, introducing internationally-themed elements that will add appeal to the existing emphasis on Irish tradition, culture and society that already offers a unique and exciting learning programme to visiting students. The attraction of study in Ireland for learners from Catholic third level institutions, primarily in the United Kingdom and United States will be leveraged also.

We will couple our efforts to attract international students with greater support for our own students to enjoy the enormous benefits of time spent on a learning-abroad programme. We will enhance and develop our international student support structures as well as our strategic outreach in order to seek out new partners and agree memoranda of understanding for mutual benefit. We will develop new delivery models aimed at distance learning that will include summer and winter school programmes, courses in professional development and online learning opportunities in order to invite a combination of professional practitioners and life-long learners to avail of flexible options for a unique and high quality international educational experience.

Our staff community, will benefit from a significantly increased commitment to academic mobility through peer exchange. We will increase our number of linkage agreements with partner universities for mutual hosting of scholars and we will invest further in academic staff development supports that enable our staff to travel for research, teaching and learning and conference attendance. We will build strong links with intermediary funding organisations towards this aim. And we will complement our internal research activities with efforts to build partnerships within and between international research networks focused on cognate fields and disciplines.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

N/A

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

See D (above) also.

Goals and Targets under the Internationalisation pillar include the following:

#### 6.4.2 Goals & Targets

##### Goal 1:

To create new high quality infrastructure for the promotion and coordination of international learning experiences and scholar exchange.

##### Targets:

New International Office operational and working cohesively with related College functions;  
Detailed plan for the promotion and coordination of international learning experiences and scholar exchange prepared, implemented and monitored.

##### Goal 2:

To significantly increase the number of international students (undergraduate and postgraduate) attending learning programmes at MIC.

##### Targets:

Number new Memoranda of Understanding signed with partner universities;  
Number new academic programmes designed at undergraduate and postgraduate levels with elements attractive to learners from abroad;  
Enhanced targeting, outreach and international marketing strategies in place;  
% increase in number of full-time students visiting MIC for study-abroad periods / exchange programmes.

##### Goal 3:

To increase international mobility for academic staff peer networking, teaching and learning and research opportunities.

##### Targets:

Increased investment in staff mobility;  
% increase in number of staff availing of mobility opportunities.

##### Goal 4:

To provide high quality and flexible opportunities at MIC for Continuing Professional Development and life-long learning.

##### Targets:

Number new Continuing Professional Development and life-long learning programmes designed with range of characteristics designed to offer flexible participation options;  
Enhanced targeting, outreach and international marketing strategies in place;  
% increase in participation in Continuing Professional Development and life-long learning programmes.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)

**E**

## Endorsement of the application

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

*Place: Mary Immaculate  
College*

*Name: Prof. Michael A. Hayes Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 03/05/2013*

*I have read and accept the Privacy statement*

*Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)*

*Michael Hayes*

*Original stamp or seal of the Institution*



**COLÁISTE MHUIRE  
GAN SMÁL LUIMNEACH  
MARY IMMACULATE  
COLLEGE LIMERICK**