University of St Andrews

Outbound Study Abroad Strategy

Statement of Aim

To develop, facilitate and encourage outbound student mobility and to enhance the experience of all participating students.

Related Strategies

The Study Abroad Strategy supports the:

• Academic Strategy (Learning and Teaching)
• Student Experience Strategy
• Employability Strategy

Objectives

• Support the University’s aim to create a learning culture that is challenging, creative and flexible through the development of opportunities to experience other academic cultures and foster intellectual maturity, while enhancing co-curricular skills and the long-term employability of students.

• Enhance flexible mobility opportunities as part of a degree programme in line with growing expectations among current and prospective students and ensure that such a distinctive feature of the St Andrews student experience strengthens the competitive market position of the University.

• Nurture the University’s ‘internationally Scottish’ culture, broadening and enriching the St Andrews community, enhancing international academic links and facilitating other types of institutional collaboration.

• Facilitate and maximise access to institutional, national and international funding opportunities such as Erasmus and scholarships so as to enable students to participate in Study Abroad irrespective of their financial background.

• Inform, influence and respond to sector developments as appropriate, including the incorporation of mobility information in widely available sets of information such as UCAS search tools; national projects such as Developing Scotland’s Global Citizens; and international developments such as the new Erasmus+ programme.

Values

The University is committed to:

• The creation and maintenance of strategic partnerships with institutions that provide our outbound students with a first-class academic experience to complement a St Andrews education, offer new intellectual challenges and perspectives, and enhance cultural and linguistic skills, ensuring that, wherever possible, degree programme requirements facilitate and support participation.

• Working in partnership with students on the development and review of our programme portfolio and the enhancement of associated services.
• Embedding Study Abroad within the curriculum and fostering graduate attributes through mobility, ensuring that information about the St Andrews portfolio is clear and accurate for all students, and that participation and academic achievement are appropriately recognised and reflected in a student’s HEAR transcript.
• Encouraging students to maximise their experience abroad by contributing actively to the host community and acting as excellent ambassadors for St Andrews.
• The provision of a comprehensive and high-quality service from application through to reintegration to St Andrews, facilitating a smooth transition from St Andrews to the host destination, and ensuring that students abroad continue to feel part of the St Andrews community through regular contact and the provision of remote access to University services as far as is practical.

Key priorities

1. Increase the number and range of opportunities available to qualified students through:
   • The development of programmes in new destinations;
   • The management of current agreements so as to maximise participation.
2. Widen participation to students through:
   • The development of suitable opportunities in subjects with low participation rates;
   • Projects to raise awareness amongst prospective students, entrants and sub-honours students;
   • The management of scholarship funding so as to minimise the non-academic impediments to participation.
3. Develop an ‘on return’ service and work with students so as to enhance student experience of reintegration to St Andrews, facilitate reflection and encourage participation in promotional and pre-departure activities.
4. Engage fully with the national and international transition to the European Commission’s new Erasmus+ programme.

Measurements of success/ quality

• Monitor the number and diversity of outbound students, with the intention of achieving a steady increase and growth in diversity.
• Monitor the number and diversity of participants benefiting from additional financial support, and the funding streams available, with the aim of observing an increasing range in funding sources and a more diverse cohort of recipients.
• Monitor programmes, agreements and service provision, responding to student and staff feedback, and report through the academic monitoring process to assure quality and ongoing programme and service enhancement.

Professor Lorna Milne, Vice-Principal (Proctor)
Ms Sam Lister, Registry Manager (Collaborations & Study Abroad)

Approved by Academic Council on 10 June 2013