

Erasmus Policy Statement

The College's core strategic commitment is the development of its learners for successful careers and empowered lives in society. The strategic objectives cover core areas of performance including engagement with industry and the community; e-learning; research and development; financial planning; human resources; educational support services; and national and international marketing. In a rapidly evolving global market-place, the need for an agile response to changing conditions has never been more imperative. Each of the plan's strategic goals is underpinned by a range of key performance indicators which will be regularly monitored to ensure the College can respond in a fast and flexible manner to any substantive changes in the educational or broader socio-economic environment. The strategic plan provides a framework for further growth as we embark on the next steps in the College's development.

From an institutional level strategy point of view, internationalization is a strategic and operational priority. In the current Griffith College Strategic Plan, five out of the 10 key objectives are to:

- Secure the highest national and international accreditation available to the College, its programmes and its learners through active engagement with alumni, external educational agencies and professional bodies.
- Deliver high quality education and training programmes kept under constant review and targeted at the career and professional development of learners from the College's centres in Ireland and internationally.
- Increase the internationalization of the College and its learner community through the international diversification of its curriculum, student and staff base, and through active engagement with quality international partners
- Deliver and support the College's programmes, flexibly embracing new and emerging e-learning technologies (e-learning, blended learning and lifelong learning) wherever appropriate to meet the education and lifestyle needs of learners.
- Promote the reputation of the College and its activities nationally and internationally in a professional manner across all forms of media, both technological and in-person through the active involvement of all staff P.7 & 8

Participating in the Erasmus programme will continue to play a vital role in realizing the objectives above for Griffith College. Quantifying the success and realisation of these objectives will be measured by:

- Percentage of programmes incorporating an international experience
- Percentage of programmes with an international curricular element
- Percentage of students exposed to an international experience and/or curricular element
- Explore the expansion of work placement opportunities abroad for students.
- Develop additional opportunities for Griffith College students to study abroad as part of their degree programme.
- Expand and enhance our (incoming) Study Abroad programme to include volunteering and work placement opportunities.
- Enhance engagement with our global alumni community

Engagement with the Erasmus programme and compliance with the Charter principles are very important in Griffith College's internationalisation and modernisation agenda. Griffith College operates and follows processes that:

- Respect in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion set out in the Programme
- Ensures equal and equitable access and opportunities to current and prospective participants from all backgrounds
- Ensures full automatic recognition of all credits, via ECTS, gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility.
- Currently charges no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities.
- Ensures the quality of the mobility activities and of the cooperation projects throughout the application and implementation phases.

Full details of Griffith College's current Strategic Plan: <https://www.griffith.ie/sites/default/files/storage/uploads/Offices/PresidentsOffice/Docs/Griffith-College-Strategic-Plan-2014-2022.pdf>

Erasmus Actions

Griffith College intends to continue its participation in KA1 activities to enable student & staff mobility. This is vital to maintaining and developing the global partnerships that we have developed over the years.

Griffith College currently participates in KA103. This is in line with our strategic objectives of increasing outbound student mobility related to international study abroad and the increase of outbound staff teaching and training mobility's to further internationalise all staff. This includes academic, administrative, technical and management. Griffith College is seeking to increase its participation in KA107. The aim is to form new and deepen existing collaborations with targeted non-European partner institutions. The objective being to share international best practice, create an environment where individual collaborations can develop into institutional ones for study, research and quality improvement initiatives. Griffith College seeks to leverage the capabilities of its existing partnerships into deeper and more meaningful engagements through reciprocal student and staff exchange, curricular design, policy reform and collaborative research projects.

Impact on participating in the Erasmus + Programme

We envisage that the Erasmus programme will have a considerable impact on the modernisation and internationalisation of Griffith College.

Student and staff mobility has been successful so far due to the relationships built between our academic champions for study abroad working in close collaboration with the project management team in the international office and our partner institutions. This programme stands out due to the long-standing relationships we have with our international partners and our commitment to develop and grow this programme for the mutual benefit of Griffith College and its partners.

Participating in the Erasmus programme will help Griffith College to

- Continuously enhance the learner experience on all its programmes by nurturing diversity through welcoming learners from many countries and cultures, supporting them during the transition periods in their education lives and supporting them so that learner achievement in Griffith College is of the highest standard possible.

- Build and maintain strong and inclusive links with the College's wider communities through active engagement with and support for local associations, representative bodies, cultural events, celebrating the College's inclusion of its diverse ethnic groups.
- To maximise the employment potential for graduates by ensuring that the knowledge, skills and competencies developed by learners reflect current and emerging industry needs.
- Facilitate widening our international network of international partner institutions with the aim of growing student and staff mobility.
- increase the College's research activities, and the research profile of the College's staff and learners, through increased qualifications and engagement in research, including nationally and internationally funded research projects.