

# UK STRATEGY FOR OUTWARD STUDENT MOBILITY

2017-2020



# VISION

The UK Strategy for Outward Student Mobility aims to double the percentage of UK-domiciled, full-time, first degree students\* who undertake international placements as part of their higher education programmes from 6.6% in 2014 to 13.2% in 2020. This will create a new generation of global graduates, and a higher education culture in which international opportunities are an aspiration for all students.

*\*ie, graduates who had a mobility period during their undergraduate studies*

## **By increasing the proportion of students benefiting from international experience as part of their studies, the UK Strategy for Outward Mobility will:**

- Contribute to UUKi's aim to enable growth in the proportion of UK students who study abroad;
- Help to ensure that UK graduates are able to work across different cultures and within a diverse workforce, in the UK and internationally;
- Facilitate an increase in academic collaboration between UK higher education institutions and their international counterparts;
- Facilitate collaboration between higher education institutions and business to increase the number of international work placements;
- Contribute to the enhanced academic outcomes and employability of UK-domiciled students; and
- Reiterate the UK's commitment to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) target that, by 2020, 20% of students across the EHEA have an international mobility experience as part of their studies.

## **To implement the Strategy, Universities UK International will work with the UK higher education sector, the four UK governments, sector organisations, employers and professional bodies to:**

- Promote all forms of outward mobility and raise awareness of its benefits at all levels;
- Help address institutional and financial barriers;
- Widen participation in and access to international mobility programmes, supporting social mobility in higher education;
- Identify new opportunities for mobility from the UK sector;
- Build capacity in the higher education sector to increase outward mobility activity;
- Provide a collective voice for institutions on UK outward mobility policy; and
- Influence government policy in respect of outward mobility.

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve its vision of increasing the proportion of UK-domiciled students accessing international opportunities, the *UK Strategy for Outward Mobility* has six objectives.

## **Strategic objective 1: Promote the benefits of study and work abroad**

- Co-ordinate a UK-wide campaign, in the style of the US's Generation Study Abroad - supported by UUKi research - to raise awareness of the benefits associated with study, work and volunteering abroad.
- Develop a strategic partnership with the British Council to maximise promotional and campaign activity.
- Promote existing outward mobility initiatives, including higher education institutions' own campaigns, Erasmus+, and the British Council's Study, Work, Create website.
- Work with programmes and organisations promoting outward mobility, language learning and intercultural awareness in schools and universities, including Routes into Languages consortia, to disseminate the benefits of outward mobility to pre-university students.
- Collaborate with other initiatives that meet the Strategy's objectives, including country-specific programmes that promote academic exchange or work placements, such as the British Council's Generation UK China and US-UK Fulbright Commission's awards.
- Conduct research to demonstrate the value of international experience to student employability and academic attainment, and the wider benefits of study and work abroad to UK higher education institutions, society and the economy.

## **Strategic objective 2: Monitor trends in student mobility**

- Analyse annual HESA data to track mobility trends in the four UK nations.
- Analyse other relevant data on outward mobility to provide qualitative and quantitative data for use by institutions and policy-makers.
- Work with the UK Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and UK higher education institutions to maximise the outward mobility data that is returned for statistical purposes, including on postgraduate mobility.

### **Strategic objective 3: Build capacity in UK higher education to facilitate outward mobility**

- Secure major investment to support outward mobility, including mobility grants.
- Secure new mobility opportunities for the UK sector, either directly or through strategic partnerships.
- Maintain an online toolkit of resources to support all institutions that want to offer a menu of international opportunities for students.
- Work with relevant stakeholders to provide support and guidance for the UK sector to widen participation in international opportunities, to ensure that all UK students have the opportunity to access international experience, regardless of their personal circumstances.
- Work with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and university representative bodies including the Association for UK Higher Education European Officers (HEURO) and British Universities Transatlantic Exchange Association (BUTEX) to provide guidance on interpreting and applying quality assurance frameworks related to student placements overseas.
- Promote existing sources of funding for outward mobility, including Erasmus+ and country-specific scholarships.

### **Strategic objective 4: Share best practice in UK higher education**

- Provide a comprehensive online information hub, signposting to all relevant information and resources for outward mobility, and aligned to the British Council's Study, Work, Create website.
- Provide forums to enable the UK higher education sector to discuss developments in student mobility in higher education and support institutions to explore new working methods or partnerships.

### **Strategic objective 5: Provide a collective voice for UK higher education**

- Support UK higher education institutions in influencing institutional and national policies on outward mobility, including informing discussions about the UK's future participation in Erasmus+.
- Promote institutions' expertise in the online toolkit and campaign.
- Work internationally to foster bilateral exchange with priority countries, and build partnerships and reciprocal agreements with new markets.

### **Strategic objective 6: Influence government for UK higher education**

- Develop a programme of work to influence the development of policy related to outward mobility, as part of a new international education strategy.