



## Technological University Dublin: Erasmus Policy Statement (2021 – 2027)

### Part I : Erasmus activities TU Dublin intends to implement:

#### **Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:**

The mobility of higher education students and staff

#### **Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:**

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

#### **Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):**

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

### Part II : The Erasmus Programme and TU Dublin's internationalisation and modernisation strategy:

TU Dublin's Strategic Plan has 3 pillars: People, Planet, Partnership. TU Dublin's Erasmus Policy Statement directly addresses the key aspirations of its Strategic Plan.

The Erasmus programme 2021-2027 is a key enabler for students, researchers and staff in the TU Dublin community to achieve the objectives set out in its Strategic Plan under the 3 Pillars above.

The University and the individual participants can realise their internationalisation aspirations thanks to the financial support that Erasmus programmes offer in terms of opportunities for academic exchange and collaboration.

#### **Planned achievements:**

Building on strong past relationships, TU Dublin will implement Erasmus across the university to 2027, to support student and staff exchange programmes, major cross collaboration research projects and employment opportunities. The participation envisaged during the 2021-2027 Erasmus scheme will include KA1, KA2 and KA3 initiatives and help to build TU Dublin's reputation to be recognised internationally as a top performing global university.

## **Planned Actions and their implementation:**

TU Dublin will continue to take part in KA1, KA2 and KA3 Erasmus actions over the course of the Erasmus+ scheme 2021-2027.

KA103 (Learning Mobility for students and staff): TU Dublin draws on a long tradition of successful participation in KA103 projects, with more than 800 mobile participants in the current year, between study, traineeship, teaching and training visits to/from Erasmus partners. In 2020-21 our application expected to take part in slightly greater numbers, due to the increased participation by staff engaged in teaching mobility and training.

KA107 International Credit Mobility (ICM): Since its inception in 2015, the founding partners of TU Dublin have been successfully competing for the award of ICM projects, with the scope and size of projects increasing each year. Currently there are 3 separate ICM projects underway in the university. In the 2020 Call, TU Dublin submitted project applications that spanned 10 countries in several academic fields, including Computer Science, Business, Engineering and Humanities.

KA2 Strategic Partnerships: TU Dublin is currently coordinating a KA2 project Ethisc4EU (Grant No. KA203000665). One of TU Dublin's founding institutions was Coordinator in VET, a KA2 project in 2018 (EU Grant No. KA2 38789) and HubLinked (2016), EU Grant No. 574368. Since 2016 the HEI was a partner in 14 other KA203 projects. In the recent Call of March 2020, TU Dublin submitted 4 proposals (applications) for KA2 projects, in the capacity of either Coordinator or Partner.

KA2: (Transnational Alliances) TU Dublin is part of an alliance of eight European university partners, making up the European University of Technology, EUt+. The other 7 members are: Technical University of Sofia (Bulgaria), Cyprus University of Technology (Cyprus), University of Technology of Troyes (France), Hochschule Darmstadt, University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Riga Technical University (Latvia), Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and Polytechnic University of Cartagena (Spain). The Alliance has submitted an EPLUS2020 application in February 2020. (Project ID: EPP-EUR-UNIV-2020). Work and activities in this KA3 project are ongoing.

H2020: TU Dublin has been successful in a number of research projects supported by European Commission funding, and further applications are underway.

## **Implementation of Erasmus actions at TU Dublin:**

All actions will be implemented according to the guidelines and rules laid down by the European Commission and the National Agency for Erasmus in Ireland, the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

All of the Erasmus programmes are supported by a team of administrative staff in the International office (KA103 and KA107), by the Research Office team (KA2 and KA3) who ensure compliance with rules and guidelines of each project. The expertise in these sections feed into smaller teams and groups (students, teachers, researchers, administrative and support staff), so that programmes run within time and budget constraints. In addition, academic departments and colleges (faculties) have assigned individual persons with responsibility for the effective implementation of the programmes. These individuals carry responsibility for implementing the programmes at grass roots level, liaising with individual participants on every programme. TU Dublin's Finance Office works closely with the International Office and the Research Office to facilitate the implementation of the activities, including grant payments to individuals, travel arrangements, hosting events for visiting researchers and other international participants who make trips to Dublin.

In its role to promote Erasmus activities, the International Office (Erasmus section) organises regular information sessions with groups of would-be participants. This is of particular benefit to students who might elect to spend a semester at an Erasmus partner as part of their undergraduate studies. For students for whom a period abroad is compulsory, meetings and information sessions are built into their academic programme and attendance is mandatory. In January 2020, an in-house training event was held to encourage greater awareness of and interest in participation in the KA107 opportunities. The half-day event was attended by 25 staff members across all academic disciplines of the university, and several project applications submitted. Further KA107 and KA2 training activities are planned for 2020 and 2021, with specific focus on encouraging newer staff members to become aware and involved.

TU Dublin's Erasmus International Office staff work closely with the National Agency for Erasmus in Ireland, the HEA, who are a constant reassurance offering support and advice.

### **Achieving our Strategic Plan objectives:**

TU Dublin is committed to being a global technological university. Our Strategic plan states that 'Being global' means "embedding internationalisation in all aspects of TU Dublin". Erasmus activities are underpinned by these strategic objectives, and together with partnerships and alliances in other parts of the world, the mobility opportunities and collaboration activities supported by Erasmus funding will contribute hugely to achieving the objectives of our institutional strategy.

Participation of individuals in all of the Erasmus actions outlined above contribute hugely to the Internationalisation of TU Dublin. Visiting students each semester are the most visible evidence of Erasmus participation on our campuses, and this group contribute in a unique way to the dynamism of an already vibrant and diverse student community, as they sit alongside the full-time students daily, and engage with all aspects of university life. They provide a window to other societies and communities beyond TU Dublin and Ireland, whilst at the same time enriching and adding to their own life experience. Visiting staff also allow for a unique experience for our student community. The role that students and staff returning to TU Dublin 'after mobility' play in encouraging the uptake of mobility opportunities by others is very significant.

KA103 & KA107: It is our aspiration to increase the flows within these projects, whilst maintaining an inward/outward balance, in the coming years, so that the opportunity for a sojourn in another Erasmus partner whether for study, traineeship, teaching or training is an option available to every student or staff member in TU Dublin.

KA2 and KA3: There is already a strong focus on collaboration, evidenced by the past record of participation. We will build on past participation, and enable wider participation through increased awareness of the opportunities among our community.

### **PART III : Impact**

As stated in TU Dublin's Strategic Plan, our aim in driving collaboration nationally and internationally with key strategic partners is to expand our reach, gain access to international practice and enhance our research and education capabilities.

TU Dublin's Strategic Plan is dynamic, and will continue to evolve. At present the university has committed to a number of targets as part of the Plan, and participation in Erasmus+ programme will impact greatly on our university in the following ways.

#### **Qualitative Indicators:**

All registered students will have the opportunity to spend a period of study / traineeship abroad as part of their programme of study.

All incoming students and outgoing students will have an assigned academic tutor, who is available to guide and assist with maximising the student's Erasmus experience of incoming or outgoing mobility.

The university will maximise the capabilities of digital platforms and social media to inform students and staff of the availability of opportunities under Erasmus.

Using Erasmus support, teachers and non-academic staff will be actively encouraged to take part in more of the opportunities to undergo relevant quality training programmes abroad.

#### **Quantitative indicators:**

By 2023 15% of our new student intake will be international students. All programmes will have sustainability as a learning outcome. 20% of our staff will be international.

By 2030 International students will represent at least 1/5 of the student population. Our research community will be internationally recognised in 5 key research fields. We will be the most 'accessible' university in Ireland, with the largest number of diverse learners.