



STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
A College of Queen's University Belfast

International Strategy 2015-18

VERSION CONTROL

Version No:	Reason for Development	Date of Review/Consultation	Updated By
1	To review and revise the International Development strategy in order to ensure greater alignment with the Academic Planning Process and Corporate Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Committee 20 April 2016 • Academic Leadership Team 9 May 2016 • Union Forum 4 May 2016 	Dr Anne Heaslett & Miss Audrey Curry
2		Presented to the Education Committee 24 May 2016	
3		For ratification at Governing Body 14 June 2016	
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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2016-2018

Introduction

Growing globalisation necessitates the development of an international perspective to and within education. Improved communications have enabled access to international perspectives, standards and approaches in almost every walk of life. Universities have been at the centre of the development of internationalisation almost from their conception. The evaluation of education is now a global issue with league tables reflecting standing in the world. Higher Education institutions should not expect to be exempt from worldwide movements but to be standard bearers for the development of an international paradigm underpinning their work. Even in intellectual fields which are by definition localised, standards have become, in the last decade, a matter of both national and international concern.

1. Purpose, Mission and Values

1.1 Stranmillis University College's International Strategy is aligned to the strategic priorities identified in the Corporate Plan 2015-18. The primary aim of the strategy is to equip students and staff for life in a global society and work in a global economy in order to support its mission:

'To sustain a vibrant, inclusive community, educating, enriching and shaping society through excellence in teaching, scholarship and research.'

1.2 The strategy is shaped by the University College's strong commitment to scholarship and research-led teaching, and the pursuit of professional excellence and cultural inclusion. Through this strategy:

- The student community will be enriched by including international students.
- The Research Office will promote and facilitate the development and dissemination of international research and scholarship projects.
- Two-way collaborative international partnerships will be established in order to create opportunities for the development of research and scholarship activities and for staff and student exchange.

1.3 The University College's vision is:

'To lead innovative professional practice.'

Embracing internationalisation and integrating a global dimension into the curriculum and into the university community is an important dimension of creating an innovative learning culture. We want to build a culture and an

ethos which is shaped by a commitment to dignity and respect for all and that adhere to the College's core values, namely:

- ❖ **We pursue excellence**
- ❖ **We embrace diversity**
- ❖ **We champion collaboration**
- ❖ **We promote social responsibility**
- ❖ **We practise good governance**

2. Strategic Context

2.1 The International Strategy is made up of a number of strands. This includes student mobility, staff mobility, international recruitment of both students and staff and the development of cooperation in areas of mutual concern, such as research and scholarship, consultancy and professional development activity with partner institutions. The University College has and will continue to develop an international perspective underpinned by the paradigm of globalisation and designed to enrich student and staff experience.

2.2 In order to implement the International Strategy a number of Key Strategic Objectives have been identified. They are as follows:

1. To enhance the quality of the student experience;
2. To increase the number of international fee paying students
3. To build research and scholarship partnerships and strengthen the University College's international networks;
4. To develop strong collaborative international partnerships;
5. To raise awareness of the Stranmillis brand in international arenas.

Strategic Objective 1: To enhance the quality of the student experience both for outgoing and incoming students

Actions we need to focus on:

1. Promote outward student mobility through exchange programmes such as Erasmus.
2. Ensure appropriate student support systems are in place for international students for both outgoing and incoming students.
3. Review and improve pre-departure and orientation processes for Stranmillis students involved in international exchange.
4. Promote the internationalisation of the curriculum for the benefit of all Stranmillis students.
5. Ensure that student satisfaction surveys are conducted on an annual basis to monitor the effectiveness of the College's international strategy.

Aim 2: To increase the number of international fee paying students

Actions we need to focus on:

6. Identify priority partnerships for developing and sustaining the recruitment of students to the Study Abroad programmes.
7. Identify priority partnerships for developing and sustaining the recruitment of students to the programmes leading to academic awards such as the PGCE (International for Primary Education).
8. Undertake annual reviews, with updates as appropriate, of policies on course fees and fee payments.

Aim 3: To build research and scholarship partnerships and strengthen the University College's international networks

Actions we need to focus on:

9. Identify areas of research and scholarship strength that have the potential to deliver successful long-term international collaborations.
10. Provide staff development opportunities to support the establishment and maintenance of international research and scholarship collaborations.
11. Use the Erasmus Staff Mobility programme to develop appropriate research and scholarship collaborations.
12. Develop a briefing pack for Stranmillis staff to support visits to overseas universities and contact with international delegates at conferences.
13. Capture and consolidate intelligence about collaborative opportunities by working with colleagues on their return from academic visits e.g. overseas universities, international conferences (including UK venues).

Aim 4: To develop strong collaborative international partnerships

Actions we need to focus on:

14. Review and monitor international partnerships in order to identify priorities for development.
15. Create opportunities for students to undertake part of their studies in an overseas partner institution through international exchange programmes.
16. Work with established processes to ensure that risk analysis procedures for new partners are fully addressed and cover academic, commercial, legal and reputational risks.

Aim 5: To raise awareness of the Stranmillis brand in international arenas.

Actions we need to focus on:

17. Identify key audiences in priority international partnerships.
18. Develop and implement a robust and well-planned communications plan targeted at key international partners which is reviewed on an annual basis.
19. Develop the necessary awareness and expertise among academic and professional staff to effectively communicate the College's international standing.

3. Development and Review

3.1 Academic Areas will contribute to the achievement of this vision in different ways. Staff teams across the College will be expected to engage with this International Strategy in order to translate it into a three year operational plan setting out clear objectives, timescales and KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). Priorities will be identified in the Annual Corporate Business Plan and reviewed on an annual basis. While the International Committee will take the lead in monitoring the implementation of the operational plan and producing reports as appropriate, all staff teams will be expected to participate in the annual review process. An annual report will also be provided to the Governing Body through the Education Committee.