

**TUS****Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest**Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir**Erasmus+**

TUS Erasmus Policy Statement

The Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Mr. Simon Harris designated Athlone Institute of Technology and Limerick Institute of Technology as the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) on 1 October 2021. Traditionally, both Institutes participated in the Erasmus programme Key Action 1 and have built a network of Erasmus partners through staff and student mobility activities over the past twenty years. Our vision in our strategic plan 2023-26 is to be a catalyst for sustainable change through education and research that transforms lives, our region and the world beyond. Internationalisation of the curriculum is a theme across our four priorities of education, research, people and organization and connecting communities. Participation in the Erasmus programme is one of the ways that we can create opportunities for our students, staff and researchers to participate in projects, activities, exchanges and other forms of international collaboration.

TUS is committed to the four priorities of the new Erasmus programme in our strategic plan 2023-26:

- to embrace inclusion and diversity;
- to address digital transformation;
- to raise awareness of climate change;
- to promote EU common values, civic engagement and active citizenship.

With the renewal of our commitment to the Erasmus+ programme, we expect to continue increasing our mobility indicators (incoming and outgoing students, staff and researchers), and our participation and coordination of research, cooperation and innovation projects. We are also committed to participating in a more inclusive European Education Area. In addition to traditional mobility under the Erasmus programme, TUS became a member of the Regional University Network (RUN) following a successful application under the European University call EPP-EUR-UNIV-2020 along with six other regionally focused European Higher Education Institutes. The alliance has grown with the addition of two new HEIs and the launch of RUN-EU 2.0 this year. The nine members of our RUN-EU alliance are committed to societal transformation in their regions in the context of both new and emerging regional and global challenges, in particular, sustainable regional development and regional needs. The members have a regional as opposed to a city focus and have a proven track record in the delivery of future and advanced skills activities in teaching, learning, research and engagement relevant

to societal challenges including future industry, sustainable development, environment and climate change, ageing population and social inclusion.

In February 2021, TUS Limerick Campus secured funding under Key Action 2 and further applications for Erasmus funding are planned. These activities are coordinated by a number of offices and academic departments across the TUS campuses.

Our internationalisation vision is:

To be recognized as a world-class University that promotes and embeds global perspectives in all of our activities, through the commitment of all members of our University community to an internationalised curriculum, transnational research and education partnerships, and an extensive staff and student mobility network.

To realise this vision, all academic departments and administrative functions will embrace comprehensive internationalisation and will take responsibility for the international targets and ambitions of TUS. We undertake to:

- Provide graduates, through a truly internationalised curriculum, with the skills and global perspective they need to succeed in international and intercultural environments;
- Recruit promising and ambitious students, researchers and staff from around the world;
- Promote and support international study, work placement and exchange opportunities for TUS students and staff through national and international exchange programmes with support from Erasmus+ funding;
- Develop transnational partnerships and manage strategic alliances that will establish our global footprint building on our existing network of Erasmus and other international partners;
- Build research-based international strategic partnerships and attract world-class researchers to our campuses.

We acknowledge and commit to the values of the Erasmus programme and as part of our strategic plan will continue to promote Erasmus opportunities to our students, staff, researchers and wider TUS community.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we maintained our relationships with our network of Erasmus and other international partners virtually. From this experience, we will engage our students in physical and virtual learning and ensure a commitment to green Erasmus activities. TUS was successful in securing funding for blended intensive programmes and staff are incorporating blended learning activities for international experiences for our students.

International students represent 10% of our full-time student population. It is envisaged to grow the international student population over the next four years and to promote outward mobility opportunities to our students, staff and researchers. The International Office collaborates with Deans of Faculty, Heads of Department, Office of Research, Graduate School, Placement/Work Based Learning Office, Careers Office, EDI Office, Access and Disability Offices to promote mobility activities to all members of our University community. Presentations are organized for students to highlight benefits of an Erasmus experience. Academic staff who have engaged in Erasmus activities motivate and encourage their students to also participate in Erasmus programmes. Support measures will be designed to encourage greater participation in mobility activities from under-represented groups such as mature learners and students from socio-disadvantaged backgrounds. By engaging in KA1 and KA2 activities, it is our goal to double the numbers of students, staff and researchers engaging in outward mobility programmes over the next four years.

TUS will become a driver of regional development, fostering excellence, innovation and inclusion. We will manage and develop international partnerships, as evidenced by our membership of the RUN-EU alliance. Europe needs such innovative educational partnerships and membership of RUN-EU and our Erasmus network of partner universities will benefit TUS by retaining and attracting new talent to the Mid-West and Midlands regions of Ireland. TUS will develop joint activities with our partners by delivering on the future and advanced skills necessary for its students and regional stakeholders to successfully meet the challenges of the future, engage in societal transformation and promote active global citizenship. Our internationalisation objectives, in particular mobility of staff, students and researchers, intra-institute cooperation on curriculum design and internationalisation of research will be realised through collaboration activities with the members of RUN-EU, Erasmus partner network and other international partnerships.